BLACK
LAGOON
09
STORY & ART BY
REI HIROE
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT

009
STORY & ART BY
REI HIROE
BLACK LAGOON

Dutch
SKIPPER OF THE OF THE BLACK LAGOON AND LEADER OF THE CREW. DUTCH STAYS COOL NO MATTER HOW BAD THINGS GET. HIS BACKGROUND INCLUDES MILITARY SERVICE, INCLUDING A TOUR IN VIETNAM.
Benny
THE MAN IN CHARGE OF THE HIGH-TECH ELECTRONICS ONBOARD THE BLACK LAGOON. BENNY ESCAPED FROM THE U.S. AND IS ON THE RUN FROM BOTH THE FBI AND THE MAFIA.
Crew of the Black Lagoon
Rock
A FORMER JAPANESE SALARYMAN, WHOSE REAL NAME IS ROKURŌ OKAJIMA. ABANDONED BY HIS COMPANY AFTER THE CREW OF THE BLACK LAGOON ABDUCTED HIM, ROCK LATER JOINED HIS CAPTORS.
Revy
THE BLACK LAGOON'S TOP GUNSLINGER, NICKNAMED "TWO HAND." HER FOUL MOUTH AND EXTREMELY SHORT FUSE USUALLY GET HER IN LOTS OF TROUBLE.

# STORY

Rock, formerly known as Rokurō Okajima, was a faceless employee at a large Japanese company. After being abducted by the crew of the *Black Lagoon* and abandoned by his company, he takes on the name "Rock" and finds a new life in the shady business of smuggling.

Roberta's return has shaken Roanapur's criminal foundations to the core. Her objective is to eliminate Major Caxton and his U.S. Special Forces Unit for the murder of Diego Lovelace, her boss and Garcia's father. Garcia arrives in town and finally locates Rock and Roberta, but the city has already become a war zone...

## Roberta

Lovelace Family maid. Ex-FARC terrorist once feared as "The Bloodhound of Florencia."

## Fabiola

Lovelace Family maid. Roberta's subordinate.

## Garcia

Next head of the Lovelace Family, one of the 13 Families of South America. Son of Diego Lovelace.

## Caxton

Leader of the U.S. Unconventional Warfare Special Forces Unit *Grey Fox*.

## Ray

Caxton's second in command.

## Balalaika

Boss of the Thai branch of "Hotel Moscow," a noted Russian criminal gang. Balalaika once was a captain in the Red Army of the former Soviet Union.

## Chang

Boss of the Roanapur branch of the Hong Kong Triad criminal gang.

## Eda

A nun at the Church of Violence. Actually a CIA agent.

## Sawyer

Cleaner of darkness.

## Lotton

Freelance assassin. Enjoys making an entrance from high places.

## Shenhua

Freelance assassin. Called "Chinglish Gal" by Revy.

# BLACK LAGOON

STORY & ART BY
REI HIROE

# 009


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# Chapter 65: El Baile de la Muerte - Pt. XXII

YEAH.
HEY, BITCH.
SMELL OF BLOOD GETTING STRONGER.
THAT'S OBSERVANT OF YOU, CHINGLISH GAL.
BETTER TO BE CAREFUL.
THAT PILE OF BODIES SAYS IT ALL.
THE BITCH'S BRAIN IS FRIED.
THE "HOUND" IN HER HAS GOT CONTROL.
WHAT ABOUT THE YOUNG MASTER?!
IF THE YOUNG MASTER ARRIVES IN TIME, THE HEAD MATRON MIGHT...
BE READY TO CHOP OFF ONE OF HER ARMS OR SHE'S GONNA MAKE US EAT IT INSTEAD!

WAKE UP, SHORTY.
...
BUT ...!!
BANG
I DOUBT SHE COULD TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE YOUNG MASTER AND A CACTUS RIGHT NOW.
SHUT UP! GUN-SHOTS!
BANG
COME FROM DOWN THE HALL...
... BITCH!
TAP TAP TAP
WE MIGHT RUN INTO HER! SHENHUA! COVER OUR SIX...
CHINGLISH GAL, GET BACK!!

KRAK
KRAK

KRAK
KRAK
WOOSH

KTN
GZ
WF
KTN
KS
WA
D
NN
G

VRGRK
OOO
BRRR
CHAK
VRR!
...!
VRR
VRR

DRAK
DASH
THWA
ZSU

...HEAD MATRON!
NO!
STOP! SHE'S LOST IT!
GRAB
LET GO OF ME!
HEAD MATRON! IT'S ME, FABIOLA!
FWP
I CAME TO TAKE YOU BACK, AT THE YOUNG MASTER'S INSISTENCE!
THE YOUNG MASTER IS...
...
...FABIOLA?

ARE YOU DONE CLEANING UP THE LIVING ROOM?
THE MASTER IS LOOKING FOR HIS NEWSPAPER.
IT MAY RAIN, SO THE YOUNG MASTER WILL NEED AN UMBRELLA.
HE IS IN THE MANOR.
WE MUST GO PICK HIM UP.
CHK
THE SUN WILL BE SETTING SOON.
SL
UMP

...
...HEY...
WHAT'D SHE SAY?
WHAT'D SHE SAY TO YOU?
KACHIK
KACHIK
...U...
UGH.
AGH!
AGH!
AAA!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, KID! IT'S ALL RIGHT!
AAA!
KICK
AAAAAA!!
WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE!
KICK
CHAK
...HEADING ...TOWARD ...
CHAK
WE HAVE SEVERAL MEN... COVERING THE FLANK!
THAT'S A GOOD SIGN, WE CAN LINK UP AS PLANNED, CORPORAL!

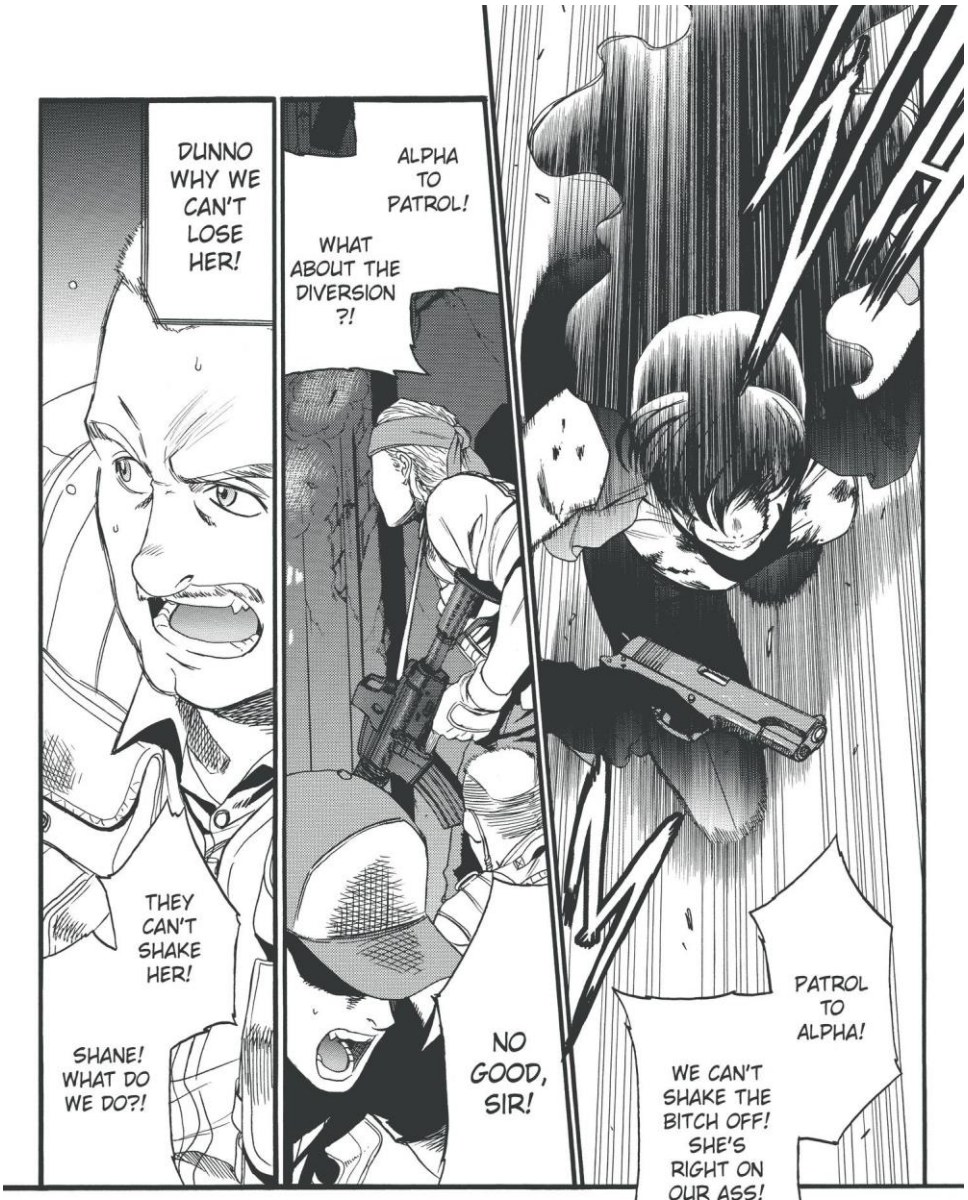
SO, YOU'RE AWAKE. HOW DO YOU FEEL, SON?
I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT HURT. WE WERE WORRIED.
... MISTER ...
Y-YOU ARE...
YOUR ENGLISH IS A LITTLE STIFF.
I'M MAJOR SHANE J. CAXTON, U.S. ARMY.
WE FOUND YOU CAUGHT IN A FIREFIGHT DURING OUR OPERATION.
UNFORTUNATELY WE'RE NOT IN THE CLEAR YET, BUT...
...WE'LL PROTECT YOU UNTIL WE REACH A SAFE LOCATION.

ON MY UNIT'S HONOR, WE WILL NOT LET ANYONE HARM YOU.
THAT'S...
...A PROMISE BETWEEN MEN.
MY OUTFIT IS THE SECOND STRONGEST UNIT IN THE UNITED STATES. YOU'RE IN SAFE HANDS.
YOU'RE A BIG BOY. YOU CAN HANDLE IT, RIGHT?
AND IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, SON...
THE STRONGEST UNIT IS THE QUARTER-MASTER CORPS. CAN'T FIGHT A WAR ON AN EMPTY STOMACH!

MAJOR! ACCORDING TO BRAVO ...
CAN YOU MOVE, KID?
I'M HORNER. BUT CALL ME "MASTER SERGEANT." YOU MUST BE THIRSTY.
WHY...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
YOU'RE NOT LOCAL. ARE YOU A TOURIST?
UH...
NO...!
UH...
UH...
MAJOR.
HE'S STILL IN SHOCK. HE CAN'T ANSWER QUESTIONS RIGHT NOW...
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY.
HORNER, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF HIM.
SPLASH!!
WE WON'T BE TOGETHER FOR LONG, BUT-
CLNK CLNK!
SPLSH
SPLSH
WHADJA DO NOW, MASTER SERGEANT?
SCARE THE KID WITH YOUR UGLY FACE AGAIN?
SHUT UP!

EL SARGENTO MAYOR DE COMANDO HORNER SE PARECE A FRANKENSTEIN, PERO ES VERDADERAMENTE DELICADO.
(MASTER SERGEANT HORNER MAY LOOK LIKE FRANKENSTEIN, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY QUITE DELICATE.)
UNA VEZ DISCUTIÓ CON SU HIJA DE SIETE AÑOS. ESTUVO DEPRIMIDO TODO EL DÍA. FUE DIVERTIDÍSIMO. UN TIPO TAN GRANDE COMO ÉL, COMPLETAMENTE DEPRIMIDO Y MELANCÓLICO!
(ONCE HE GOT IN AN ARGUMENT WITH HIS 7-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER. HE WAS DEPRESSED THE WHOLE DAY. IT WAS REALLY FUNNY, A MAN AS BIG AS HIM ALL DEPRESSED AND MELANCHOLY!)
SANCHEZ!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! KNOCK IT OFF!
¿ERES LATINO, CIERTO? TU ACENTO TE DELATA.
(YOU'RE LATINO, RIGHT? YOUR ACCENT GIVES YOU AWAY.)
SOY EL SARGENTO MAYOR SÁNCHEZ, UN FRANCOTIRADOR. ES UN PLACER CONOCERTE.
(I'M SERGEANT MAJOR SANCHEZ, A SNIPER. IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.)
EL SARGENTO MAYOR DE COMANDO HORNER TE PROTEGERÁ, NO IMPORTA LO QUE PASE. ÉL ES UN HOMBRE DE PALABRA.
(THE MASTER SERGEANT WILL PROTECT YOU NO MATTER WHAT. HE'S A MAN OF HIS WORD.)
SOMOS LOS BUENOS, ¿OK?
(WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS, OKAY?...)
PERO ESCÚCHAME, JOVENCITO.
(BUT HEAR ME OUT, KID.)
Difuntos el 12
De agosto
...WHY...
...WHY...
ASÍ QUE, CONFÍA EN NOSOTROS.
(SO TRUST US.)
¿OKAY?

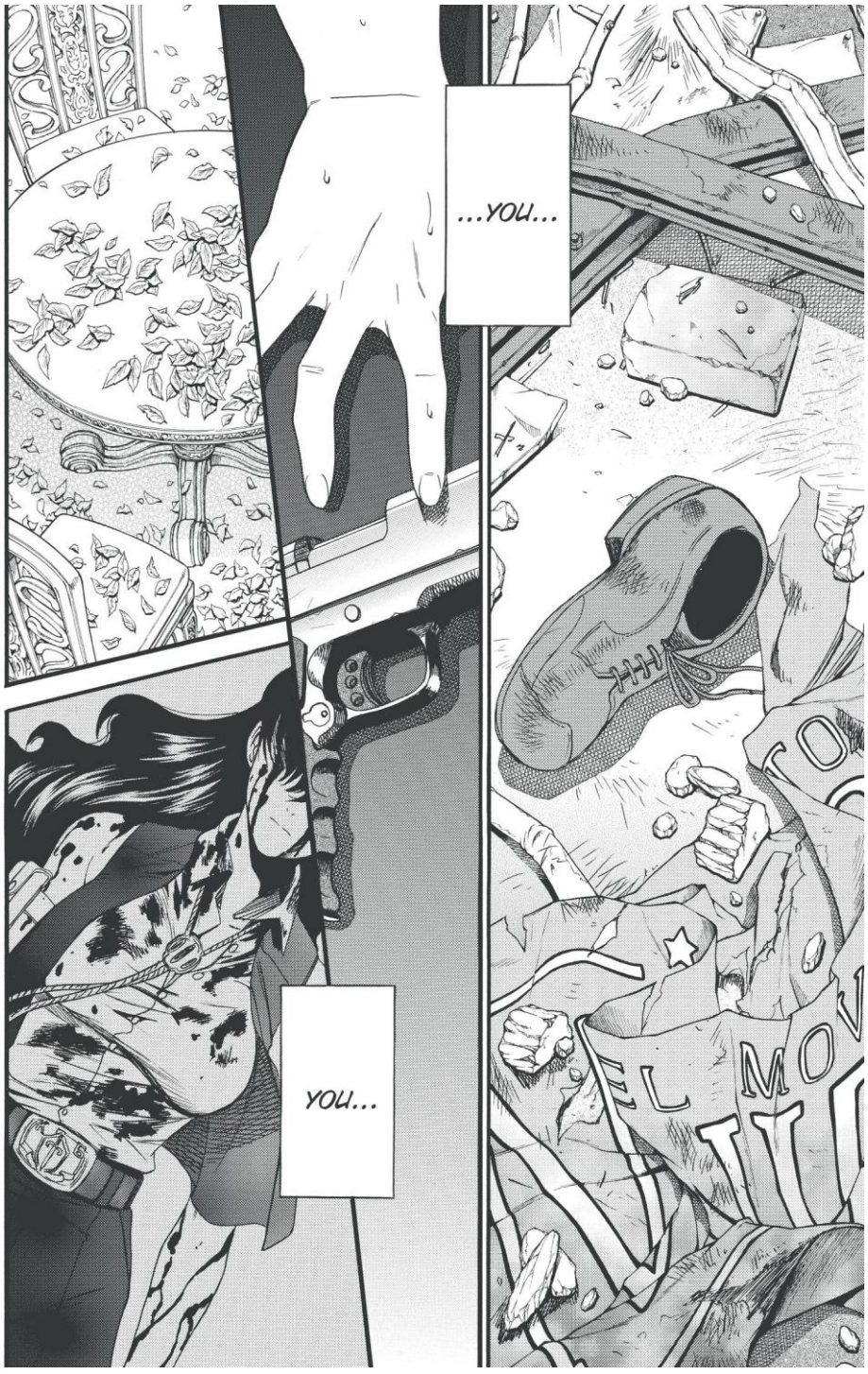
...PATROL TO ALPHA! ALPHA, RESPOND!
THAT BOGIE'S STILL RIGHT ON OUR ASS! WE CAN'T SHAKE HER OFF!
KL AK
PATROL, DO YOU COPY?
OUR RALLY POINT IS JUST UP AHEAD.
WHAT?!
WHO THE HELL IS SHE?!
SH CHK
ALL UNITS PROCEED TO RALLY POINT. YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO ENGAGE IF FIRED UPON.
BUT DO NOT INITIATE! EX-FIL IS YOUR PRIORITY! THE SITUATION IS GRAVE! I WANT EVERYONE OUT ALIVE!
W
O
O




# Chapter 66:
# El Baile de la Muerte - Pt. XXIII

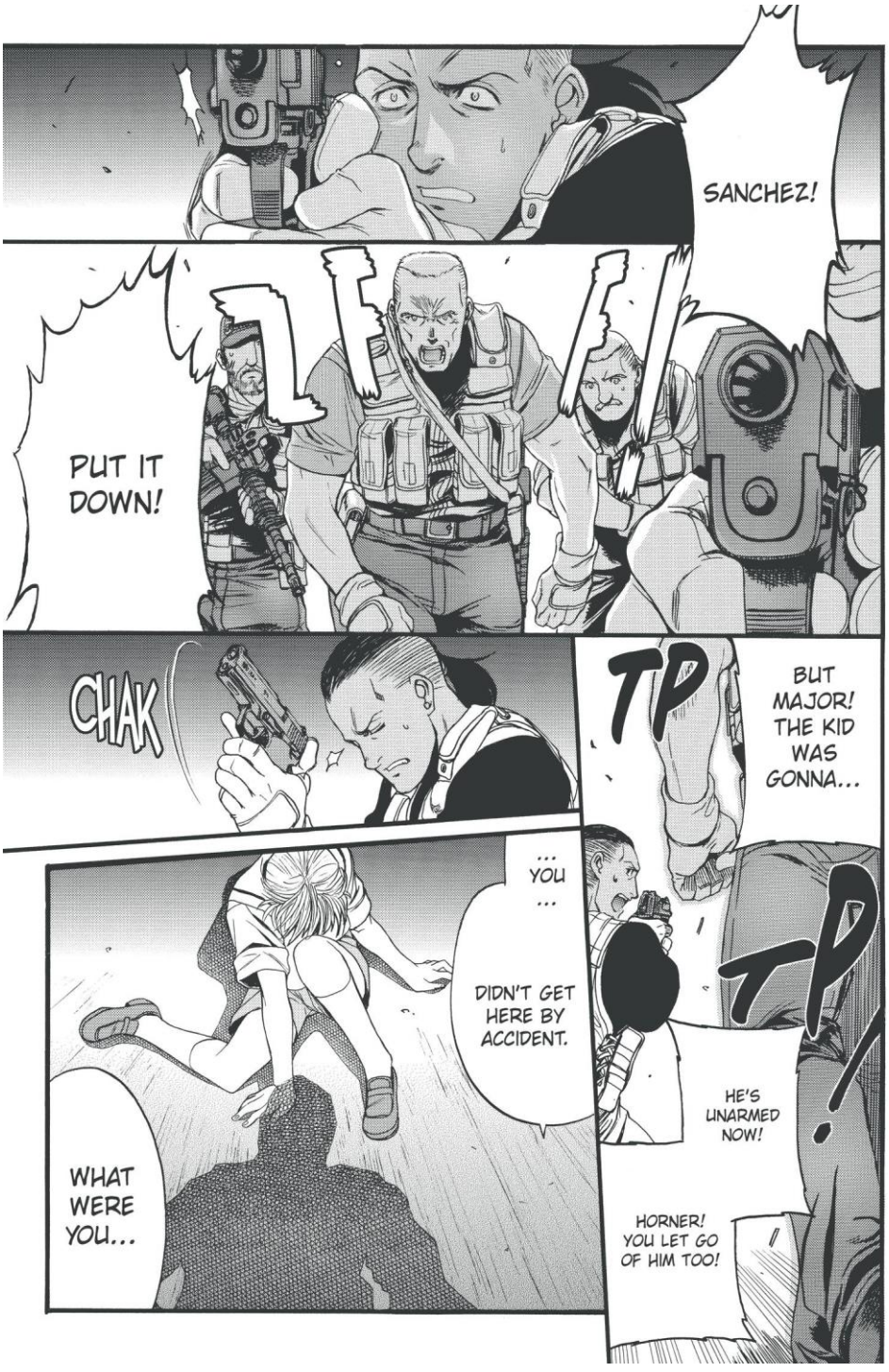
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BUDDY UP AND SPLIT INTO THREE GROUPS! AND KEEP EACH OTHER UPDATED!
PATROL!
BRAK
BRAK
BRAK
BRAK
BRAK
BRAK
LAY DOWN SUPPRESSING FIRE AND RETREAT BACK TO THE ORP! DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT TAKING HER DOWN!
THAT'S NOT OUR OBJECTIVE! OUT!
*ORP: OBJECTIVE RALLY POINT
...SHANE!
WHO THE HELL IS SHE?
I DON'T KNOW.
THERE'S NO WAY TO FIND OUT RIGHT NOW.
WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS LOSE HER BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HIT.

HEY!
LOOK AT ALL THE BODIES, MASTER SERGEANT.
LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS SOME ACTION DOWN HERE TOO.
DON'T LET THE KID SEE IT.
...FORGET ABOUT THAT FOR NOW. GIVE THE KID SOMETHING!
CAN YOU MOVE, KID? WE NEED TO BUG OUTTA HERE.
BURROUGHS, DOES HE NEED A STRETCHER? WE COULD...
GW
HE'S GOT A SWEET-TOOTH. I'LL ASK HIM.
BURROUGHS, YOU GOT ANY HERSHEY'S LEFT?
NO, SIR. BUT L.G. MIGHT...


...YOU...
YOU...

IF YOU PEOPLE HADN'T...
NEW YORK FEDERAL
IF YOU HADN'T...!

CHAK
HERSHEY'S KISSES
...KID....
...WHY...?


SANCHEZ!
PUT IT DOWN!
CHAK
BUT MAJOR! THE KID WAS GONNA...
TP
TP
HE'S UNARMED NOW!
HORNER! YOU LET GO OF HIM TOO!
... YOU ...
DIDN'T GET HERE BY ACCIDENT.
WHAT WERE YOU...

WH
?
...WASN'T AN ACCIDENT...
IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT!
IT...
IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT!
OUR LIVES... ROBERTA...
Y-YOU PEOPLE... EVERY-THING...
YOU...
YOU'RE THE ONES THAT...
...RUINED OUR LIVES!!

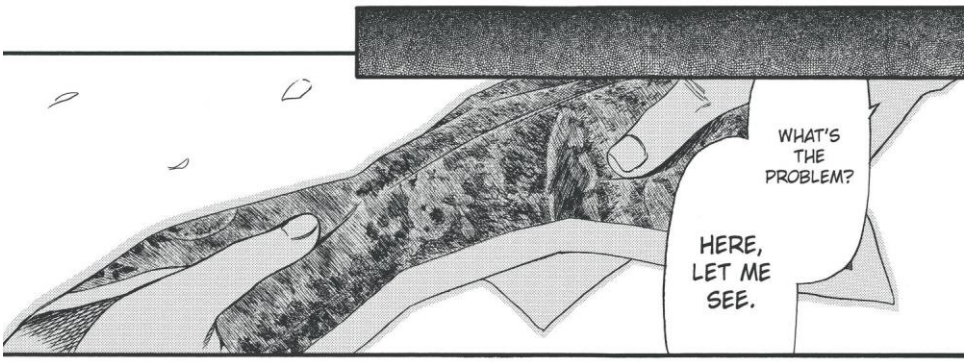
...
SOUNDS LIKE THINGS...
...ARE WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT.
WH
O
O
...
WHO ...
...ARE YOU?
WHAT ...
IS GOING ON HERE?
...
...DON'T YOU KNOW?
...DON'T YOU EVEN KNOW THE PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES YOU'VE DESTROYED?

LAST OCTOBER...
BARINAS, VENEZUELA.
TEN PEOPLE WERE KILLED AT A POLITICAL RALLY...
ONE OF THEM...
WAS MY *FATHER.*
...CONFIDENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL ORDER...
PLAN 117!
NEW YORK FEDERAL
YOU... TOOK MY FATHER AWAY FROM ME...
MY FAMILY... WAS DESTROYED.
AND...
SOMEONE I LOVE...
...
...I SEE...

...
...KID.
...WON'T EVER...
...COME BACK NOW.
WHETHER THAT OPERATION WAS RIGHT OR NOT...
...THERE'S NO WAY...
I CAN APOLOGIZE TO YOU.
...IS NOT UP TO ME TO DECIDE.
BUT...
YOU...
HAVE THE RIGHT TO REVENGE.
I...
WON'T MAKE ANY EXCUSES FOR WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US.

...IT'S VERY UNFOR-TUNATE.
...THE MISSION ...
...DID THIS TO YOU.
...THAT MY MISSION...
...IT WAS...
A TRAGEDY.
...WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU WAS VERY COMPLICATED.
IT INVOLVES NATIONS AND POLITICS.
CH
AK
BUT REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES...

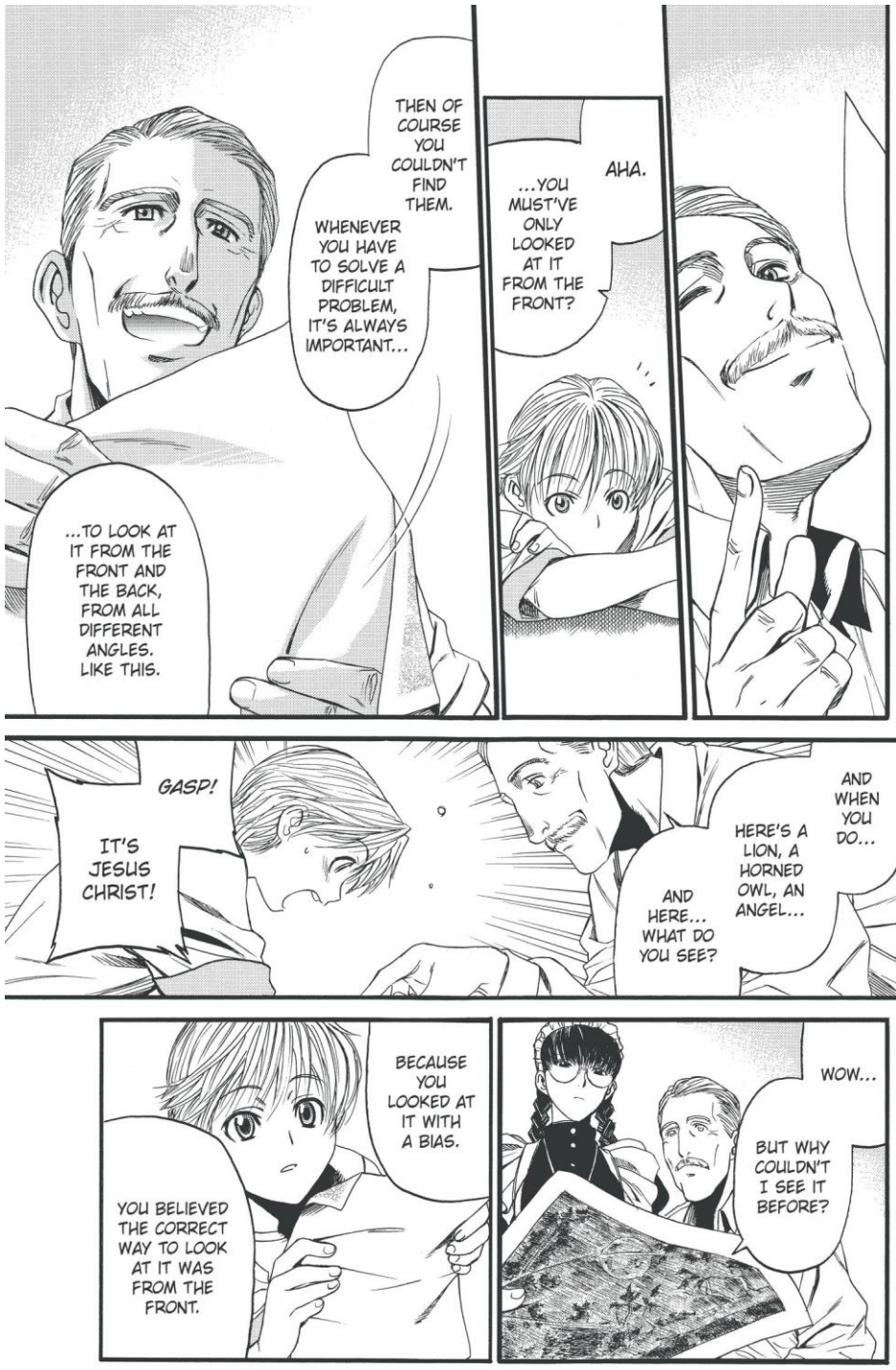
I WAS THE ONE...
WHO KILLED YOUR FATHER.
REVENGE ...
IS A VALID MOTIVATION.
THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
YOU'RE A MAN.
YOU CAN MAKE UP YOUR OWN MIND, CAN'T YOU?
SHANE!
NO!

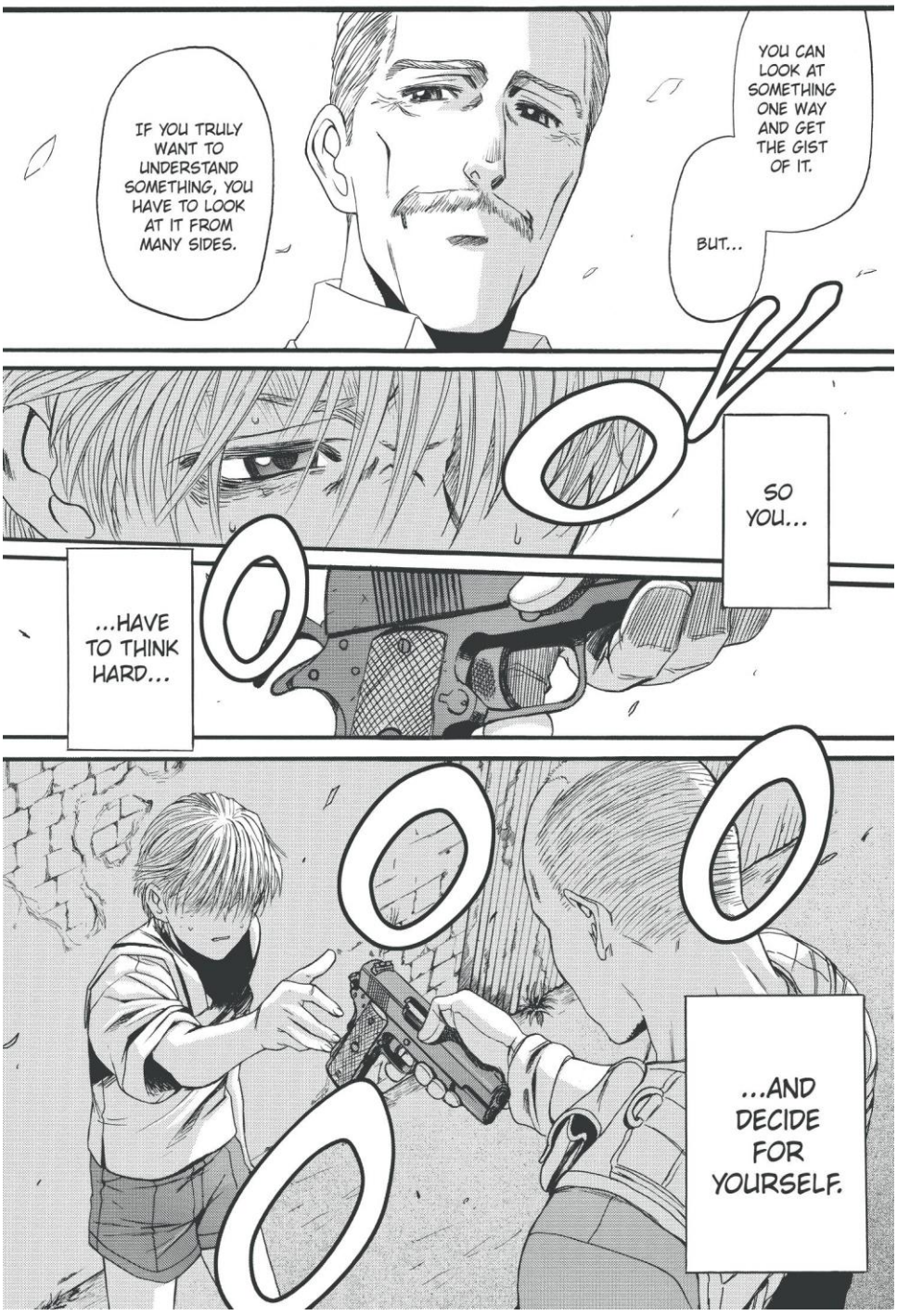

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
HERE, LET ME SEE.

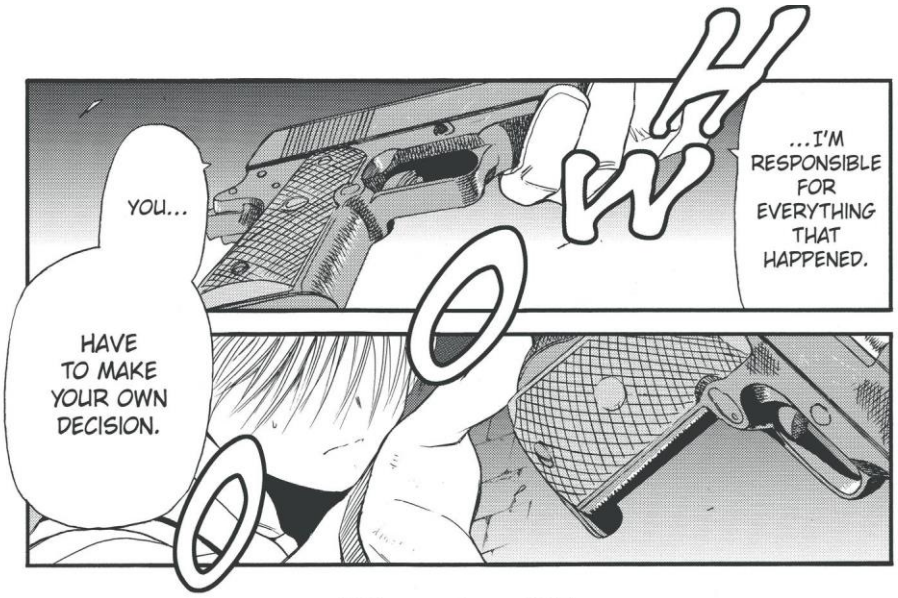
I SEE...
HMM... LET'S TAKE A LOOK.
BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I LOOK AT IT, IT'S A PICTURE OF SOMEBODY HUNTING IN THE FOREST.
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE FOUR THINGS HIDDEN IN THIS PICTURE.

BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING. HE LIED.
EMILIO CAME TO BRAG ABOUT IT.
GARCIA, DON'T BE SO QUICK TO CALL SOMEBODY A LIAR.
HE CAME HERE BECAUSE HE MUST'VE FOUND ALL OF THEM HIMSELF.
THAT SIDE IS BLANK, FATHER.

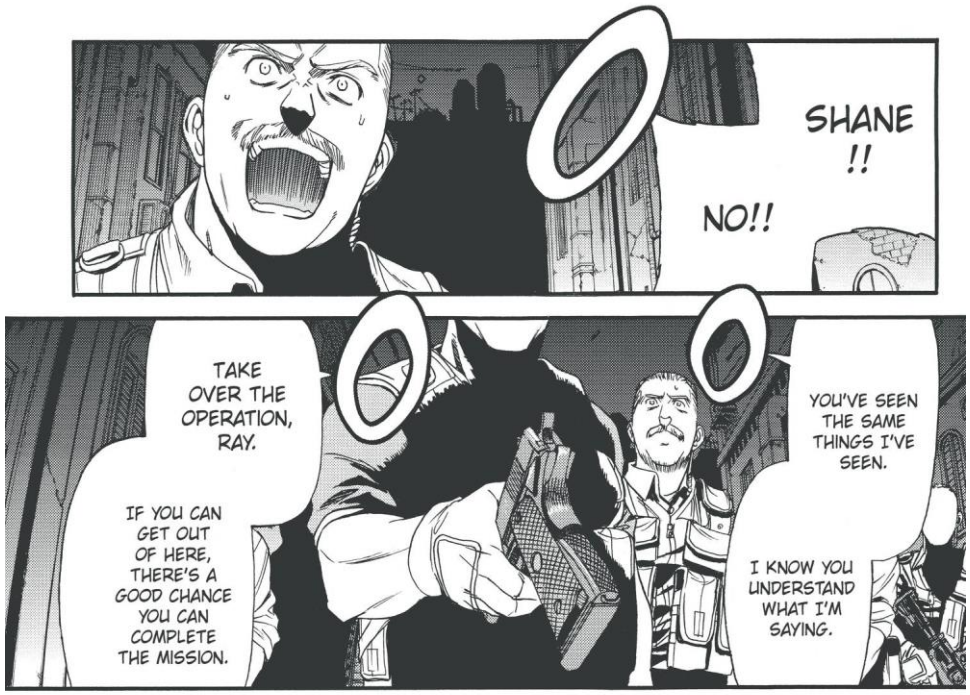
HMM... YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU CAN'T SEE THEM AT FIRST GLANCE.
WHO GAVE THIS TO YOU?

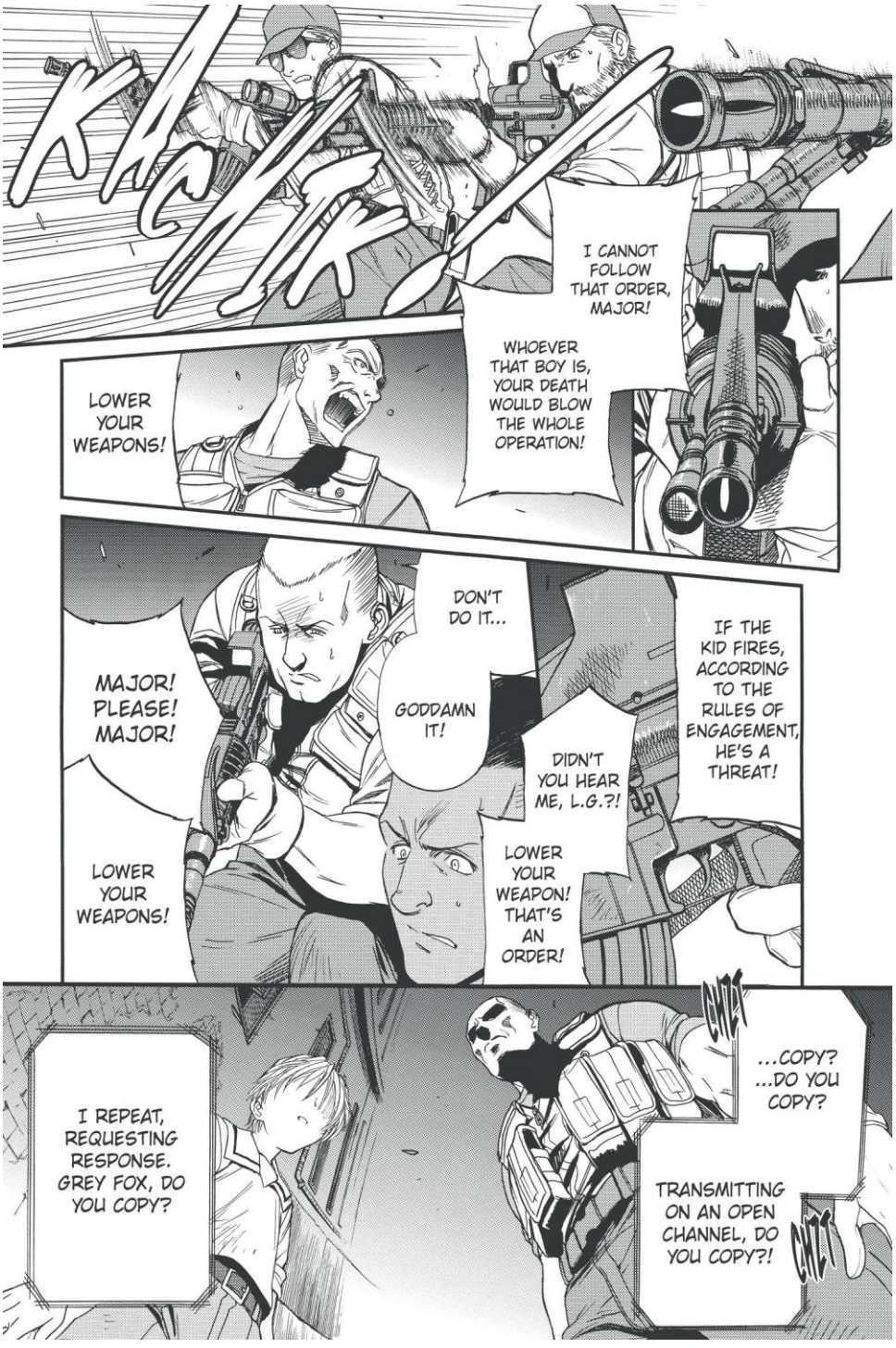

...TO LOOK AT IT FROM THE FRONT AND THE BACK, FROM ALL DIFFERENT ANGLES. LIKE THIS.
WHENEVER YOU HAVE TO SOLVE A DIFFICULT PROBLEM, IT'S ALWAYS IMPORTANT...
THEN OF COURSE YOU COULDN'T FIND THEM.
...YOU MUST'VE ONLY LOOKED AT IT FROM THE FRONT?
AHA.
AND WHEN YOU DO...
HERE'S A LION, A HORNED OWL, AN ANGEL...
AND HERE... WHAT DO YOU SEE?
GASP!
IT'S JESUS CHRIST!
BECAUSE YOU LOOKED AT IT WITH A BIAS.
YOU BELIEVED THE CORRECT WAY TO LOOK AT IT WAS FROM THE FRONT.
WOW...
BUT WHY COULDN'T I SEE IT BEFORE?


IF YOU TRULY WANT TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT IT FROM MANY SIDES.
YOU CAN LOOK AT SOMETHING ONE WAY AND GET THE GIST OF IT.
BUT...
SO YOU...
...HAVE TO THINK HARD...
...AND DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.

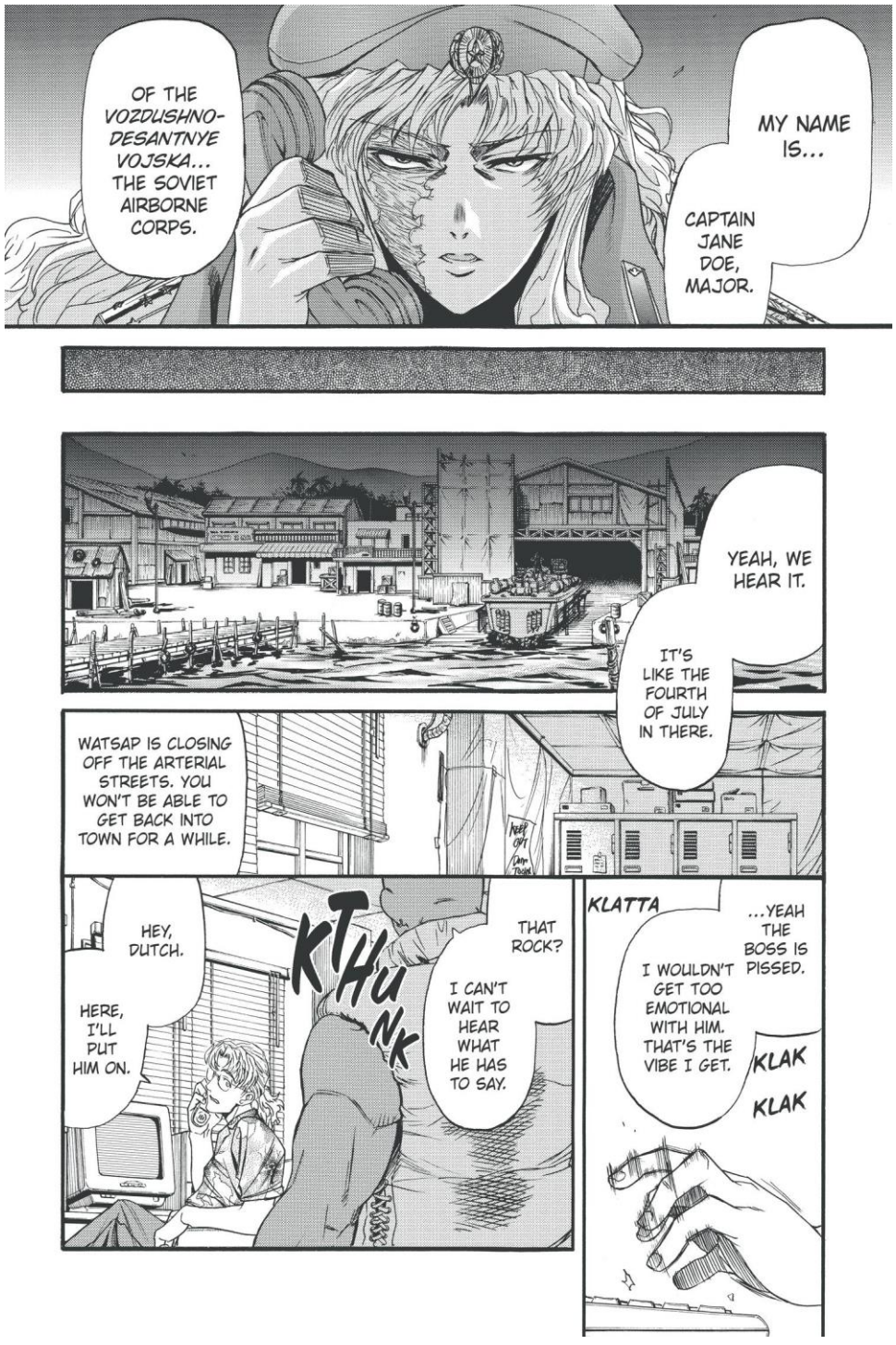



# Chapter 67: El Baile de la Muerte - Pt. XXIV



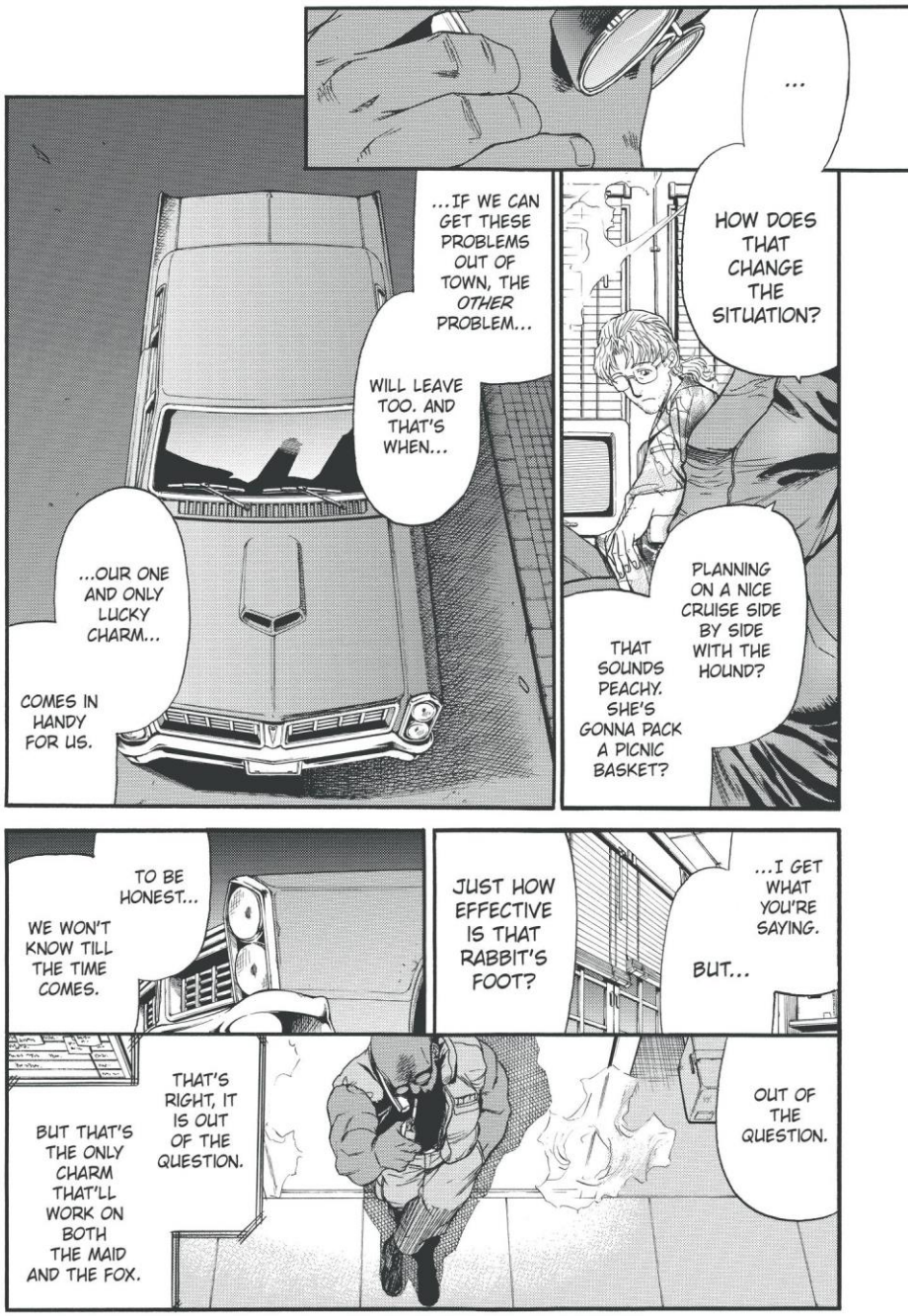

KACHK
I CANNOT FOLLOW THAT ORDER, MAJOR!
WHOEVER THAT BOY IS, YOUR DEATH WOULD BLOW THE WHOLE OPERATION!
LOWER YOUR WEAPONS!
DON'T DO IT...
IF THE KID FIRES, ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT, HE'S A THREAT!
MAJOR! PLEASE! MAJOR!
GODDAMN IT!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME, L.G.?!
LOWER YOUR WEAPONS!
LOWER YOUR WEAPON! THAT'S AN ORDER!
CHIT
...COPY? ...DO YOU COPY?
I REPEAT, REQUESTING RESPONSE. GREY FOX, DO YOU COPY?
TRANSMITTING ON AN OPEN CHANNEL, DO YOU COPY?!
CHIT

...RAY.
CONFIRM THE DIVERSIONARY TEAM'S LOCATION.
BE ADVISED, THE HOUND IS APPROACHING YOU FROM BEHIND.
YOUR DIVERSION APPEARS TO HAVE FAILED. IF YOU DOUBT ME, CHECK WITH YOUR MEN, OVER.
THANK YOU FOR THE INFO. THIS MAY SOUND RUDE, BUT...
WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH YOU?
CHAK
KACHIK
SHCHK
...WHO IS THIS HOUND?
AND WHO ARE YOU?
THE HOUND IS HIDING WITHIN A THREE-BLOCK RADIUS OF YOUR POSITION.
I SUGGEST YOUR SQUAD HEAD TO MAIN STREET AND ESCAPE TO THE SOUTHEAST.


MY NAME IS...
CAPTAIN JANE DOE, MAJOR.
OF THE VOZDUSHNO-DESANTNYE VOJSKA... THE SOVIET AIRBORNE CORPS.
YEAH, WE HEAR IT.
IT'S LIKE THE FOURTH OF JULY IN THERE.
WATSAP IS CLOSING OFF THE ARTERIAL STREETS. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET BACK INTO TOWN FOR A WHILE.
KTHUNK
HEY, DUTCH.
HERE, I'LL PUT HIM ON.
THAT ROCK?
I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.
KLATTA
...YEAH THE BOSS IS PISSED.
I WOULDN'T GET TOO EMOTIONAL WITH HIM. THAT'S THE VIBE I GET.
KLAK
KLAK

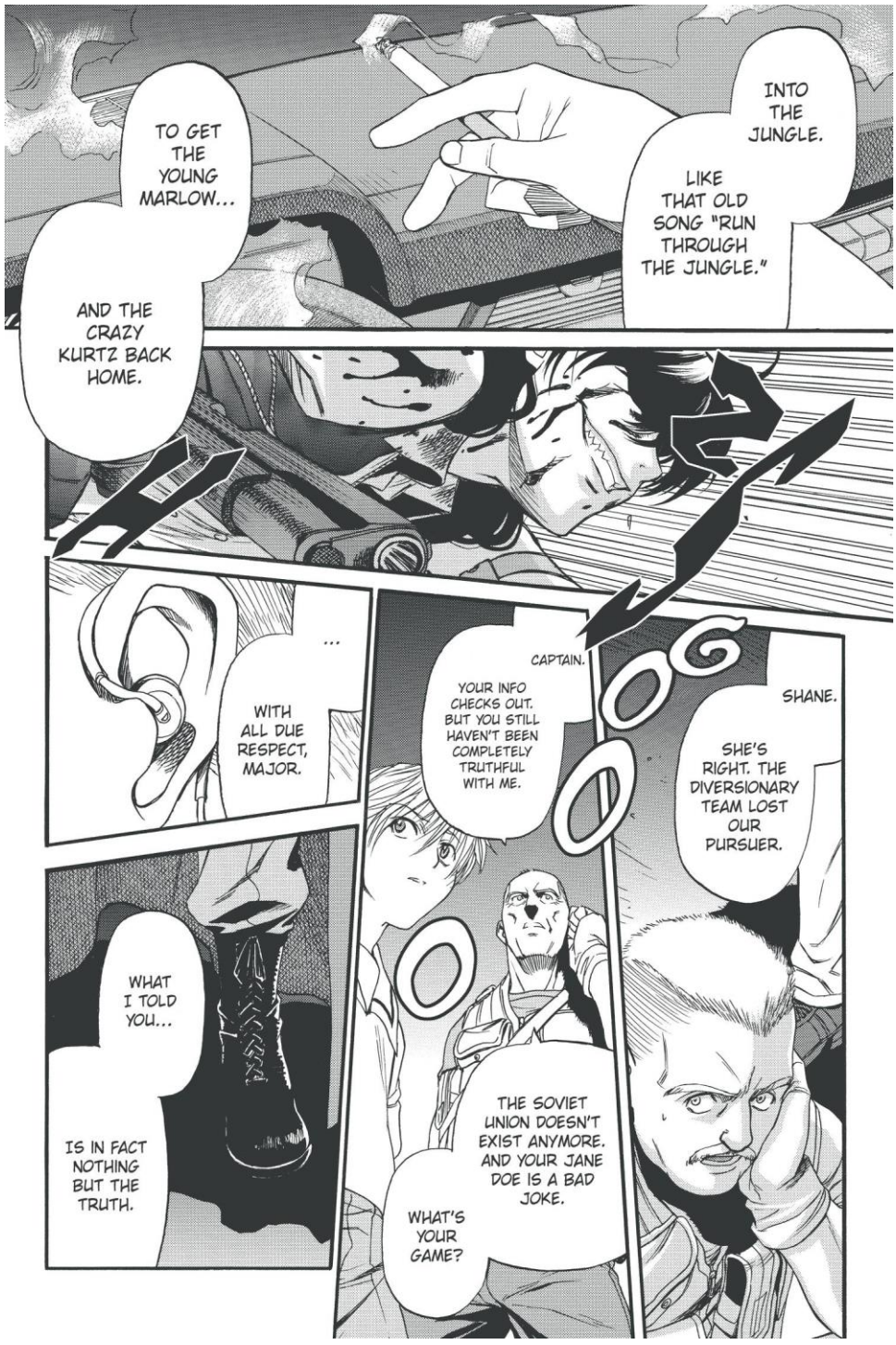
HERE'S THE BOSS.
DUTCH.
GO EASY ON HIM.
GOOD LUCK, MAN.
YEAH.
I KNOW. THANKS.
...ROCK.
AS A CO-WORKER, I LIKE YOU.
I'D BE SORRY TO SEE YOU GO.
IT'S ME.
I COULDN'T SLEEP WONDERING WHICH TUNE YOU WERE GONNA SING TO ME.
YOU GOT THE MANNERS DOWN, BUT YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THE DRESS CODE TOO.
THAT WON'T EVEN CUT IT AS AN OPENING ACT. IT'S NOT EVEN A PROLOGUE.
FIRST OFF LET ME SAY I'M SORRY.
DUTCH ...

COUNSELOR BERGER'S BEEN GONE FROM THIS TOWN A LONG TIME, DUTCH.
THE CHURCH OF VIOLENCE IS THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, THE NSA IS THE CLIENT.
THIS IS LEGITIMATE BUSINESS FOR LAGOON TRADERS.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN EXAGGER-ATION, ROCK.
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO? BRING IN PERRY MASON?
...YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT.
BUT IT'S NOT UP TO ME TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENS BEYOND THAT.
OUR ROLE HERE...
IS TO GET THESE *PROBLEMS* OUT OF TOWN AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT.
BUT THE VANISHING POINT IS STILL UP AHEAD.
WE'RE WAY PAST THE WATER-SHED.


...
HOW DOES THAT CHANGE THE SITUATION?
PLANNING ON A NICE CRUISE SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE HOUND?
THAT SOUNDS PEACHY. SHE'S GONNA PACK A PICNIC BASKET?
...IF WE CAN GET THESE PROBLEMS OUT OF TOWN, THE OTHER PROBLEM...
WILL LEAVE TOO. AND THAT'S WHEN...
...OUR ONE AND ONLY LUCKY CHARM...
COMES IN HANDY FOR US.
...I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
BUT...
JUST HOW EFFECTIVE IS THAT RABBIT'S FOOT?
TO BE HONEST...
WE WON'T KNOW TILL THE TIME COMES.
OUT OF THE QUESTION.
THAT'S RIGHT, IT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
BUT THAT'S THE ONLY CHARM THAT'LL WORK ON BOTH THE MAID AND THE FOX.

ONCE AGAIN WE END UP WITH A HUGE PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS.
HOW'D WE GET CAUGHT UP IN THIS, ROCK?
IT ALWAYS COMES DOWN TO THIS...
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT AT ALL. I TAKE PRIDE IN BEING A FREE MAN.
I DON'T LIKE IT.
BUT IN THE END, WE'RE STILL A PART OF THIS SHADY TOWN.
WE DEFINITELY GOT THE SHORT END OF THE STICK.
WHEN YOU GET DOWN TO IT, THE BEST PART OF THIS WHOLE ORDEAL IS...
WELL, THEN...
LET ME PUT IT TO YOU THIS WAY.
...WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO GET TO HAVE ANY FUN WITH IT, DUTCH.

...SOMETIMES I HESITATE TO MAKE DECISIONS.
ONLY TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD CAN ENJOY THAT...
...THE SUICIDAL AND THE ADVENTURERS.
PFF
WHICH ONE...
...ARE YOU?
...
YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE FUN...
TO PUT A BET ON THAT?
...GRRR.
NOW I KNOW WHO ELSE BESIDES THE MAID NEEDS A SHRINK.
BUT IT SOUNDS JUST RIGHT FOR THIS TOWN.
...WHERE DO WE TAKE THEM?


INTO THE JUNGLE.
LIKE THAT OLD SONG "RUN THROUGH THE JUNGLE."
TO GET THE YOUNG MARLOW...
AND THE CRAZY KURTZ BACK HOME.
...
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MAJOR.
CAPTAIN.
YOUR INFO CHECKS OUT. BUT YOU STILL HAVEN'T BEEN COMPLETELY TRUTHFUL WITH ME.
SHANE.
SHE'S RIGHT. THE DIVERSIONARY TEAM LOST OUR PURSUER.
WHAT I TOLD YOU...
IS IN FACT NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH.
THE SOVIET UNION DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE. AND YOUR JANE DOE IS A BAD JOKE.
WHAT'S YOUR GAME?

I AM A CORPSE, AND WE ARE...
...AN ARMY OF GHOSTS WANDERING THE WASTELAND ...
UNABLE TO DIE OR COME BACK TO LIFE.
MY REASONS ARE NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.
IF YOU AGREE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH US...
CAPTAIN!
IT'S HER!!
MAJOR! I NEED AN ANSWER NOW!
SHE'S ...

ABOVE YOU!

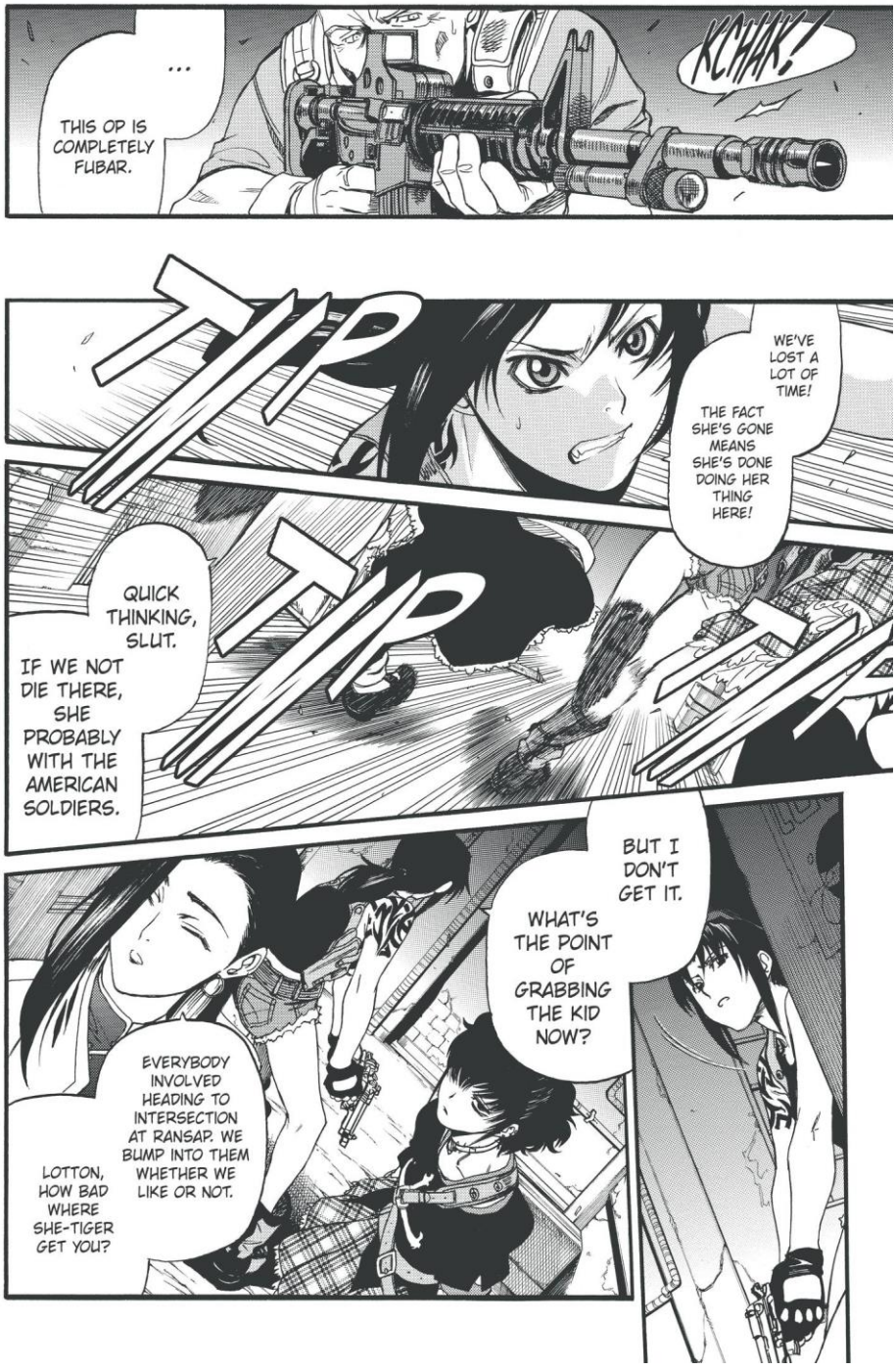
DA DA DA
SH
RETREAT BACK INTO THE ALLEY, AMERICANS!
THE ALLEY!
ZS HH
TH UD

HEHEHE.
OWOOO
THERE, I FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU.
NOW RUN SOME MORE. RUN DEEPER INTO THE FOREST, MR. FOX.
I'LL SKIN YOU AND HANG YOU ON THE WALL.
OR ELSE...
THWOK
GR
AB

THWMP!
TMP
DON'T SHOOT...!
HORNER ?!
YOU KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HER, MAJOR!
CHAK
I'M ALL RIGHT, I'M ALL RIGHT!
...KID...
IS THAT...?
FWOO
THE ONE YOU PEOPLE... BROKE!
...YES. SHE'S THE SIDE OF ME THAT CHOSE REVENGE.

SHIFF
WHO-EVER SHE IS...
I DON'T INTEND ON BEING KILLED BY ANYBODY BUT YOU.
MAJOR!
...BOY.
REVENGE IS ONLY BETWEEN YOU AND ME.
KL K
I MAY ONLY... ADD TO YOUR SINS.
UNTIL THEN... I'LL LEAVE THIS WITH YOU.
SH!
SANCHEZ! TAKE THE BOY AND HORNER AND GET TO THE ALLEY!
RAY! YOU'RE IN CHARGE! NOW GO!
KLIK

...YOUNG MASTER?
IT'S YOU, YOUNG MASTER.
I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
PLEASE JUST WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.
WHEN I'M DONE WITH THE HUNT...
I'LL BRING HER BACK.
SO...
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HER.
... MAJOR.
CH
AK


...
THIS OP IS COMPLETELY FUBAR.
KCHAK!
TIP
TIP
TIP
WE'VE LOST A LOT OF TIME!
THE FACT SHE'S GONE MEANS SHE'S DONE DOING HER THING HERE!
QUICK THINKING, SLUT.
IF WE NOT DIE THERE, SHE PROBABLY WITH THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS.
BUT I DON'T GET IT.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF GRABBING THE KID NOW?
EVERYBODY INVOLVED HEADING TO INTERSECTION AT RANSAP. WE BUMP INTO THEM WHETHER WE LIKE OR NOT.
LOTTON, HOW BAD WHERE SHE-TIGER GET YOU?

WOW.
WHAT HAS TO HIT TO MAKE DENT LIKE THAT?
THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE FIDDLING WITH.
OH.
S
WING
...I ANTICIPATED SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
SO I WORE THIS.
SW
ISH
BUT MY MAGNUM ...
YEAH, OKAY WHATEVER.
YOU NO PLAN HAVING KIDS ANYWAY. WHO CARE IF YOU GET CASTRATED.
...YEAH ... I AGREE...
THD
THMP
THD
LOOK!
UP THERE!
SOLDIERS WITH WEAPONS!

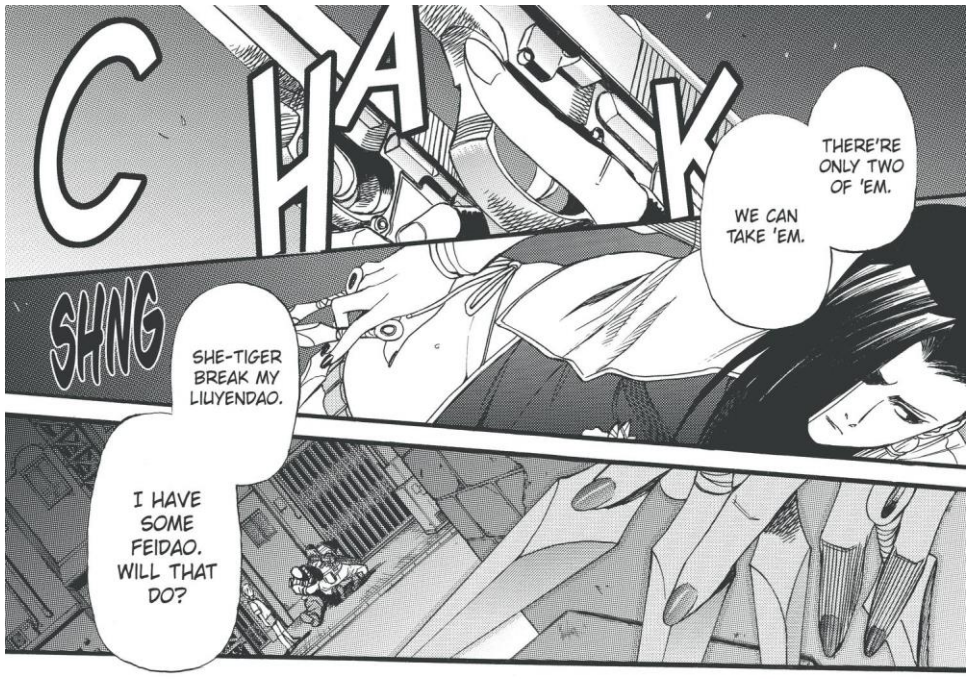
KSHAK!
DOBRYNA! TARGET ACQUIRED!
WE'LL CREATE AN OPENING!
DAK DAK
KAK
BLAM
SHIT THAT WAS FAST!
IT'S THE NEXT BLOCK!
BLAM BLAM
FIRE BETWEEN THEM!
LAY DOWN SUPPRESS-ING FIRE!

VAK
DAK
Огонь!
(FIRE!)
DAK
BKAMBRAKA
BA
NG
SHE'S PINNED DOWN IN THE ALLEY!
BA
NG
MOVE!
BA
NG

CH
AK
BANG
DAT
DAT
DAT
BL
AM
BANG
PK
OOW
BRAK BRAK
BRAK
BRA
WE HAVE TARGET GOLUBOI PINNED AT THE ENGAGEMENT AREA! THE AMERICAN FORCES ARE WITHDRAWING!
GOOD JOB, CORPORAL ZATYAMIN.
KEEP FIRING. I'M SENDING YOU SQUAD 3.

BKAM
BKAM
BKAM
BKAM
ROGER!
MAINTAIN YOUR DISTANCE AND CONTAIN HER WITH CAUTION.
SHE'S SOLO, BUT WE'RE OPERATING AT THE SQUAD LEVEL. SHE CAN OUTRUN THE SUPPRESSING FIRE EASILY.
TING
TINK
KTNG
HOTEL MOSCOW?!
YOU UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUS THIS IS...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
IT'S THE VYSOTNIKI!
WHO MORON?! YOU GET US INTO THIS MESS!
FUCK YOU! IF I KNEW WE'D BE IN THIS SHIT, I WOULD'VE...
HOW THE FUCK WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW, YOU STUPID CUNT?!
IF I KNEW I WOULDN'T BE RUNNING MY ASS OFF WITH YOU MORONS!
TICKLE
TICKLE
TICKLE
TICKLE
HUY HAHA HAHA!
...HEY...!

SHH!
OVER... THERE... ISN'T... THAT... GARCIA...?
WHAT THE HELL, GOTH GIRL?!
WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT FOR?!
SHE RIGHT, IT IS.
HE WITH AMERICAN SOLDIERS.
WHAT?
OVER... THERE...
WHAT WE DO?
THAT LITTLE FUCK'S NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
VO
THIS IS GONNA SUCK, BUT WE GOTTA DO IT.
THERE'RE ONLY TWO OF 'EM. LET'S TAKE 'EM OUT!
9mm S




# Chapter 68: El Baile de la Muerte - Pt. XXV

HORNER.
YOU WERE HIT PRETTY BAD. CAN YOU WALK?
THE SLUG DIDN'T GO THROUGH, BUT...
I THINK MY RIB OR SHOULDER'S BROKEN...
...WE GO ON THREE.
WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL.
BIG MAN IN MIDDLE CAN'T MOVE. I TAKE HIM.
YOU TAKE BLACK MAN OVER THERE, OKAY?
ALL RIGHT.
READY.
THREE...
TWO...
ONE...
KCHK!

ウォーク
アウト
SH
AK

KTNK
KTNK
TWO HAND!
AK
FROM THE CAPTAIN!
SIA
TCH
IT'S ME.
ZWF

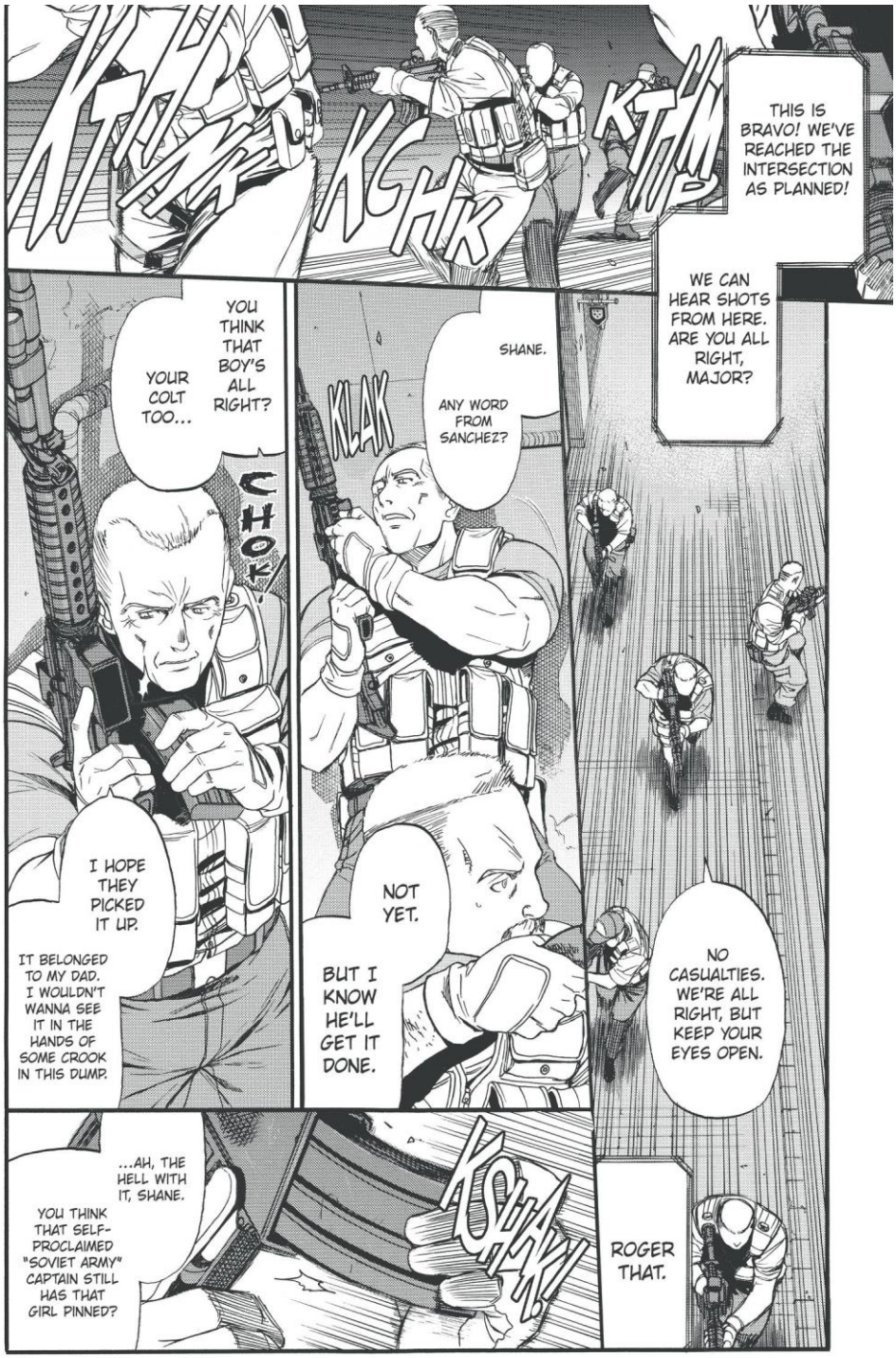
I'LL KEEP THIS SHORT.
THIS WAR TONIGHT BELONGS TO US.
GWOOO
THIS BATTLE IS OURS ALONE TO ENJOY.
YOU'RE ONLY TALKING TO ME RIGHT NOW BECAUSE WE KNOW EACH OTHER.
NEXT TIME, I WON'T HESITATE TO CUT YOUR HEAD OFF.
I WILL NOT LET YOU SPOIL IT.
THAT'S ALL.
SIS!
YOU GOTTA BE...

...
...WHAT'S WRONG?
WH
SH
WHO THE FUCK DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?!
GIMME A FUCKING BREAK!
That fucking bitch!!
WHAT IS SHE?! A JEHOVAH'S WITNESS?!
TH
KR
ISH
BUT GET THIS STRAIGHT.
IF IT'S ONE OR THE OTHER, I CAN TAKE IT, BUT BOTH? YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYIN'?
OF COURSE NOT! FUCK!
"STAY OUTTA THIS ONE, BITCH!" IF IT'S HER, FINE, I CAN LIVE WITH THAT TOO!
BLOWIN' HOLES IN MY ARM? OKAY, I CAN LET THAT SLIDE.

WHAT YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT THIS, YOU THE ONE WITH HEAD IN TOILET.
ONLY STUPID DOGS AND PEOPLE IN WUXIA STORIES FIGHT SOMEBODY THEY KNOW STRONGER THAN THEM.
ARGH! OW! IT FUCKING BURNS!
THE SWELLING'S GOING DOWN AND IT'S STARTING TO HURT! SHIT!
YOU START SOMETHING WITH HOTEL MOSCOW...
YOU MAKE ONE MORE TROUBLE FOR SAWYER AND ME. YOU UNDERSTAND?
SHENHUA!
THAT LINCOLN TUNNEL IN YOUR LEG DON'T HURT?!
YOU WANT US TO FIGHT HOTEL MOSCOW WITH YOU?
YOU MUST BE CRAZY.
IT DOES.
IF NOBODY WATCHING I WOULD BE ON GROUND CRYING.
BUT COMPARED TO TUNNEL IN HEAD, I CAN TAKE THIS. AM I WRONG?
K-K
SH
RA
Ah! FUCK!
DAMMIT SUCKER!
BUT I NO STOPPING YOU. IF YOU WANT DIE, DIE ALONE.
SHE PROBABLY SPOKE TO DAGÉ CHANG TOO. IT QUICKER TO JUMP IN FRONT OF CAR.

ZWIP
...THE MATTER WE AGREED ON...
IS NOW OVER.
I THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF THE YOUNG MASTER FOR ALL YOUR HELP ALONG THE WAY.
REGARDING PAYMENT, WE WILL DEPOSIT IT THROUGH SAINTE-ADELE BANCO.
HOLD ON, LOLITA.
NOTHING'S OVER AND NOTHING'S CHANGED.
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, HUH?
I AM...
NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING.
IT'S ALL OVER NOW.
THAT IS ALL.

TIP
...THE MAID IS RIGHT. THIS ALL OVER NOW.
WE ALWAYS LOSE MORE THAN WE GAIN WHEN WE WORK WITH YOU, BITCH.
WHO TAKE CARE OF SHE-TIGER?
...HOW THE FUCK SHOULD I KNOW, DUMB ASS.
EITHER THOSE SOLDIERS OR THIS TOWN'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.
THIS FUCKING BLOWS. I'M DONE.


KTAK KGHK KTAK
THIS IS BRAVO! WE'VE REACHED THE INTERSECTION AS PLANNED!
WE CAN HEAR SHOTS FROM HERE. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAJOR?
ROGER THAT.
NO CASUALTIES. WE'RE ALL RIGHT, BUT KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.
SHANE.
ANY WORD FROM SANCHEZ?
KLAK
NOT YET.
BUT I KNOW HE'LL GET IT DONE.
YOU THINK THAT BOY'S ALL RIGHT?
YOUR COLT TOO...
CHOK
I HOPE THEY PICKED IT UP.
IT BELONGED TO MY DAD. I WOULDN'T WANNA SEE IT IN THE HANDS OF SOME CROOK IN THIS DUMP.
...AH, THE HELL WITH IT, SHANE.
YOU THINK THAT SELF-PROCLAIMED "SOVIET ARMY" CAPTAIN STILL HAS THAT GIRL PINNED?
KSHAK

THEY'RE FIGHTING WELL. HER COMMANDS ARE PRECISE.
SHE HASN'T GOT A LOT OF MEN, BUT SHE'S TURNED THIS BLOCK INTO A KILL ZONE.
SHE'S EXPERIENCED TO SAY THE LEAST.
IF THIS IS A TRAP...
WE'RE IN THE BIGGEST TROUBLE WE CAN IMAGINE.
STAY ALERT. MAKE SURE THE MEN CAN RESPOND TO BOTH FLANKS.

...
CAPTAIN.
THE AMERICANS HAVE REACHED THE INTER-SECTION. THEY'RE BEING JOINED BY ANOTHER TEAM.
WE STILL HAVE TARGET GOLUBOI PINNED IN A DEAD END ALLEY.
KEEP HER THERE. WE DON'T NEED TO ESCORT THE AMERICANS ANYMORE.
FWOOO
WE STILL HAVE TIME.
WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE.
THIS IS NOT AN OPERATION THAT SHOULD END AS CHANG'S SUBCONTRACT.
...CAPTAIN.
KCHOK

...SAY NO MORE.

...I SEE.
THAT IS INTRIGUING.
...DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
OH THEY'LL BITE. I'LL MAKE SURE THEY DO.
...
YEAH.
...I HOPE IT GETS INTERESTING FOR BOTH OF US.
GIMME A CALL AGAIN WHEN EVERYTHING'S READY.
I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER.
hot river cinema
Cable

UNBELIEVABLY, SHUE YAN...
DAGE.
WE'VE RECEIVED WORD FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE.
FLIP
CATCH!
THK
SO, WARLORDS WILL BE WARLORDS, HUH?
SHOULD I CONTACT GENERAL KHUN SA DIRECTLY?
...BELIEVES INSPECTION OF THE CONTROLLED TERRITORIES ... IS ESSENTIAL TO CONTAIN THE EFFECTS OF KHUN SA'S SURRENDER.
THEN...
THE HOUND?
WE NEED HIM TO LIVE QUIETLY IN YANGON.
DON'T.
THE SURRENDER IS A FARCE ANYWAY...
AND A FARCE SERVES A PURPOSE.
THE HOUND WILL BE IN CHARGE OF CLEANING UP WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THAT.
LAGOON TRADERS WILL LEAD THE AMERICANS INTO THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AS PLANNED.
YEAH.
I JUST GOT A CALL FROM ROCK.
BUT... WHETHER OR NOT SHE CAN CATCH UP TO THE AMERICANS IS ANOTHER ISSUE.
WE'RE WORKING ON IT.
WHAT ABOUT THE MESSAGE TO THE HOUND?

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, BIU.
YOUR HAIR'S GONNA GO GRAY.
BUT THAT'S MY JOB, DAGË.
IT'S A KIND OF SICKNESS IF YOU ASK ME.
THEY TAKE EXTREME PRIDE IN BEING SOLDIERS.
...THE VYSOTNIKI IS STILL PLAYING WITH HER.
WILL THEY KEEP THEIR PACT WITH US?
OH, SHE WILL.
SHE'S OPERATING ON A PROFOUNDLY SIMPLE LAW RIGHT NOW.
SHE'LL CHASE THE FOX WITHOUT BEING DISTRACTED.
POFF!
THE FACT SHE'S CONDUCTING THIS THING SO SMOOTHLY IS WHAT SCARES ME.
I CAN'T IMAGINE A WAR JUNKIE LIKE HER ABANDONING A CRUSADE AND LAYING DOWN HER WEAPON.
EVEN ON THE NIGHT WE MET, FRY FACE...
WAS ITCHING TO START WORLD WAR III.
KLIK
HMPH.
OF COURSE IT IS.
...WILL SHE REALLY... KEEP IT TO HERSELF?
DAGË.
SHE AGREED TO THE ALLIANCE AT THE LAST MEETING. BUT...

WHO KNOWS?
I SURE DON'T.
... BUT ...
THEN...
I TOLD HER...
TO DANCE WITH ME INSTEAD OF THE COUNTRY BUMPKIN. THAT'S IT.
IF SHE'D RATHER PLAY WAR WITH THE AMERICANS ...
...THAT MEANS... SHE GAVE ME THE COLD SHOULDER.
THEN WHAT?
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU LOOK AT WHAT YOU WERE DEALT, THE NUMBER OF CARDS WON'T CHANGE.
I PLAYED ALL OF WHAT FEW CARDS I HAD.

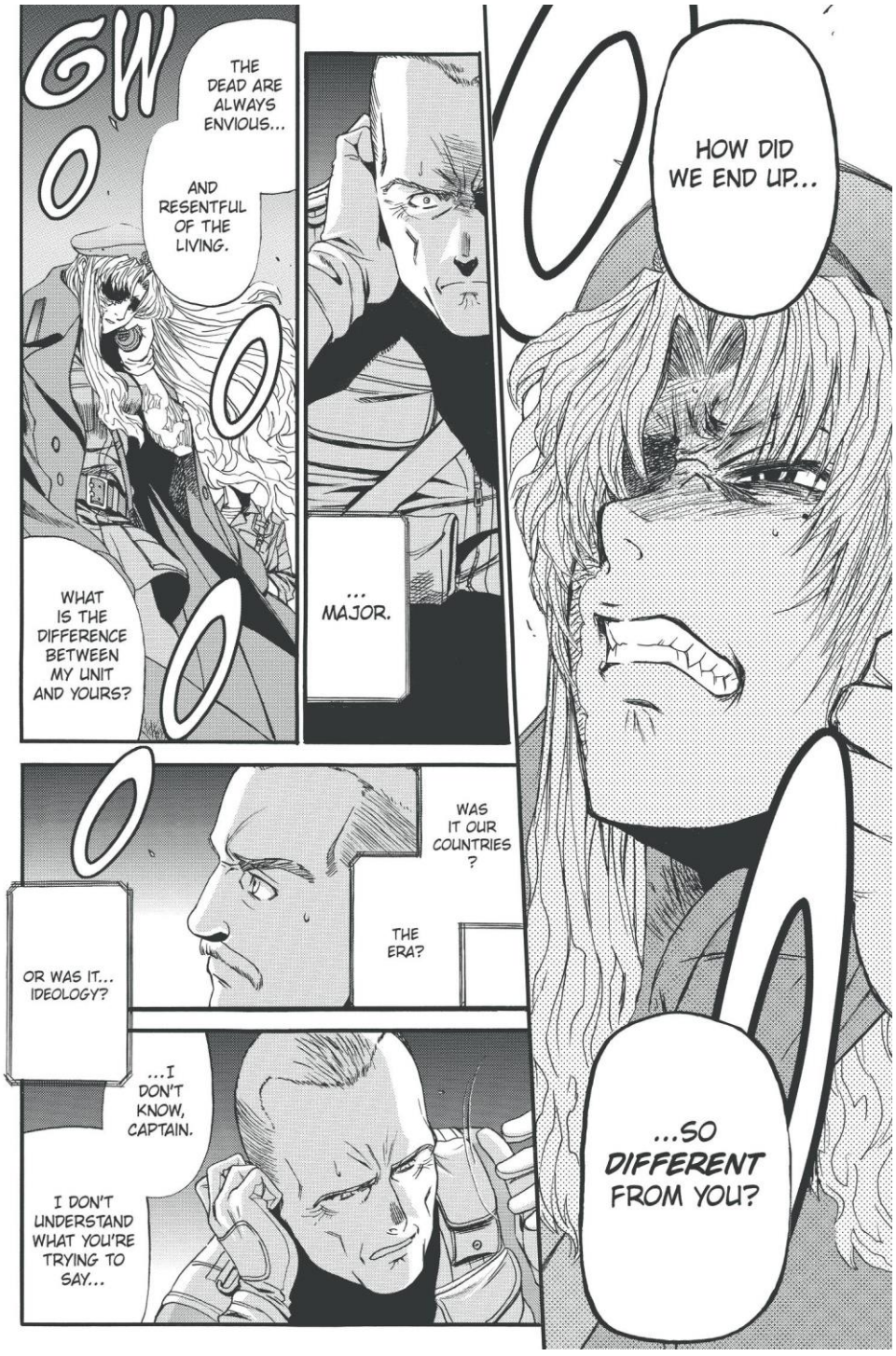
JUST BECAUSE ROANAPUR GOES TO RUIN, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE UNIVERSE COMES TO AN END.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CLOSE SHOP AND PREPARE TO SETTLE THINGS...
JUST LIKE IN '93, WE'LL DUKE IT OUT WITH HER.
LET'S JUST SAY...
FRY FACE BREAKS THE PACT AND GOES ON A CRUSADE.
THAT SHE SENDS BOTH THE HOUND AND THE AMERICANS TO HELL. WELL THEN, SO WHAT?
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THAT.
LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY.
THE WORLD'LL KEEP SPINNING.
...
HEH.
HEHE.
DÀGĒ.
MAY I SAY ONE THING.

I THINK I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY THE DAI LO PUT SO MUCH CONFIDENCE IN...
AN EX-COP WHO LET HIS FRIENDS DIE AT THE STAR FERRY PORT.
YOU'RE CRAZY...
BUT YOU'VE GOT BIGGER BALLS THAN ANY OF US.
GIVE IT A REST, BIU.
IT'S NOT THAT I'VE GOT BALLS.
I'M JUST ABLE TO ENJOY THINGS...
FOR WHAT THEY ARE.
WELL ...
THERE AREN'T MANY CARDS LEFT ON THE TABLE.
THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO...
IS FLIP THEM OVER AND SEE WHAT COMES UP.

BZZT..!
...AMERICANS. DO YOU COPY?
AMERICANS, THIS IS THE DESANTNIKI, DO YOU COPY?
...THAT THE "SOVIET ARMY"?
YEAH, I THINK SO.
IT'S ME. ANY CASUALTIES ON YOUR END?
NYET.
WE ARE NOT MERCENARIES. HONOR IS OUR REWARD.
...
HWOOOOO
MAJOR.
I'M GLAD TO KNOW YOU'VE SAFELY REACHED THE INTERSECTION.
I'M PLEASED TO REPORT WE HAVE NO CASUALTIES ON OUR SIDE AT THE MOMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN.
SO THE FORTUNES OF WAR ARE WITH YOU.
NICE WORK, CAPTAIN DOE.
WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE CAN RETURN TO OUR ORIGINAL OBJECTIVE.
ON BEHALF OF MY ENTIRE UNIT, I THANK YOU.
TELL ME WHO YOU'RE WITH AND I'D GLADLY PUT YOU IN FOR THE SILVER STAR.
BUT THAT PROBABLY WON'T HAPPEN. WHAT DO YOU WANT IN RETURN?

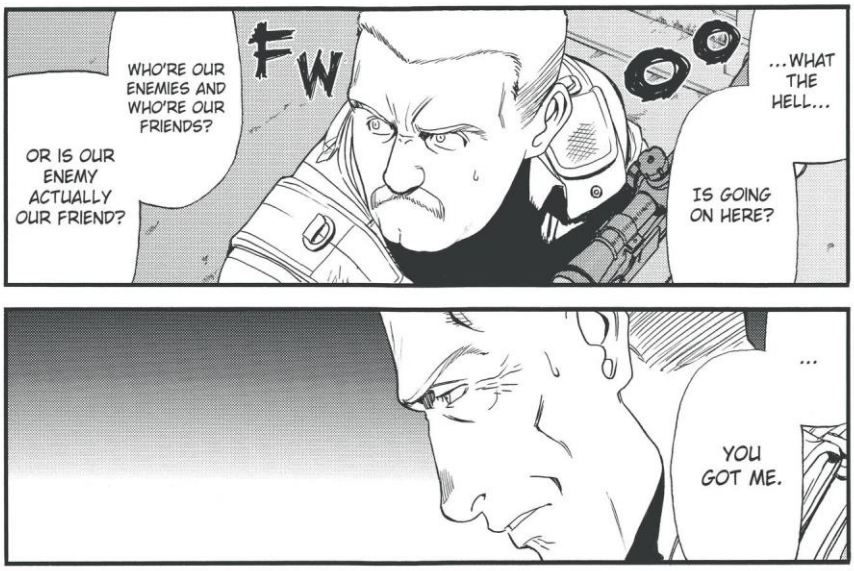
THIS OPERATION WILL BE OVER SOON...
...MIGHT I HAVE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME?
...TO BE QUITE HONEST...
WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE...TO EXCHANGE FIRE WITH YOU.
EVER SINCE THE DAYS OF ROLLING AROUND THE RED SANDS OF AFGHANISTAN, WHEN WE WERE STILL ALIVE...
THIS IS THE BATTLE WE HAVE SOUGHT.
A BATTLE WE'VE WAITED AND...
LONGED FOR.
OF COURSE, CAPTAIN.
THANK YOU, MAJOR.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. I WON'T TAKE TOO LONG.

MAJOR CAXTON.
I'M AWARE OF YOUR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE.
INVOLVED IN COUNTLESS SPECIAL OPERATIONS MISSIONS... YOUR RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.
AND...
YOU AND YOUR COURAGEOUS MEN...
...CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR YOUR COUNTRY...
WITH LOYALTY AND BRAVERY.
THAT HONOR CANNOT BE MEASURED WITH MEDALS.
ONLY THOSE, LIKE YOU, THAT HAVE RUN THROUGH THE SAME WASTELAND OF GUN SMOKE AND BLOOD...
ONLY THOSE THAT HAVE THE SCREAMS AND DEAFENING ROARS OF EXPLOSIONS BURNT INTO THEIR BODIES...
CAN UNDERSTAND THIS SUPREME PRIVILEGE.
THANK YOU. I'M TRULY HONORED.
BUT I'VE MERELY CARRIED OUT MY DUTY TO MY COUNTRY AND COMRADES, THAT'S ALL.
JUST LIKE YOU, CAPTAIN.
YOUR LEADERSHIP IS APPARENT FROM THE SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION YOU COMMANDED TONIGHT.
I'M HONORED, MAJOR.
THOUGH OUR ALLEGIANCE AND THE PLACES WE'VE FOUGHT DIFFER ...MY UNIT HAS SEEN THE SAME THINGS AS YOURS, AND FOUGHT THE SAME BATTLES.
BUT TELL ME, MAJOR...
HOW...


HOW DID WE END UP...
...SO DIFFERENT FROM YOU?
...
MAJOR.
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY UNIT AND YOURS?
GW
THE DEAD ARE ALWAYS ENVIOUS...
AND RESENTFUL OF THE LIVING.
WAS IT OUR COUNTRIES ?
THE ERA?
OR WAS IT... IDEOLOGY?
...I DON'T KNOW, CAPTAIN.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY...

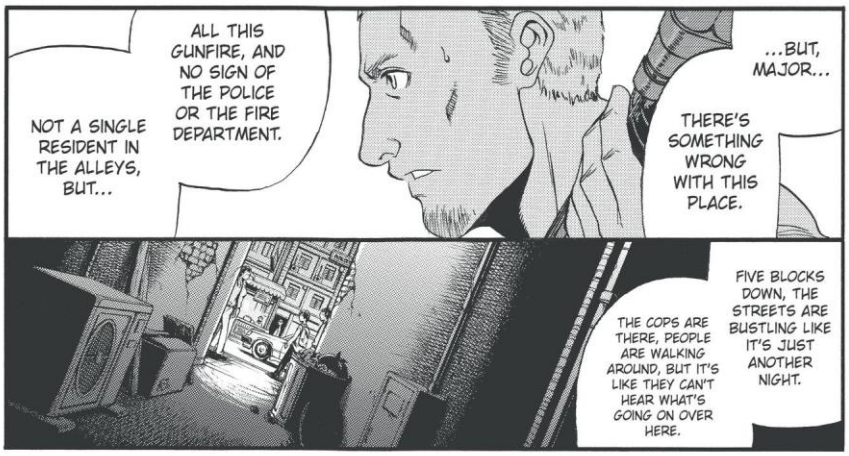
IT'S ALL BULLSHIT AND IT CAN ALL GO TO HELL, MAJOR.
IT'S ALL BULLSHIT.
KSHINK
OF COURSE NOT. VERY WELL.
THAT'S THE DEAL I'VE HAD TO MAKE.
THIS OPERATION HAS BEEN LIKE WALKING ON RAZORS... BUT I'VE COMPLETED IT PERFECTLY AS YOU CAN SEE.
THMP!
Занять позиции!
(FALL IN!)
I EVEN HAVE TO GET THAT HUMAN WOLF THAT HAS BEEN CHASING YOU OUT OF THIS TOWN ALIVE.
YOU PRAISED MY COMMAND EARLIER...
BUT I WAS ONLY PROTECTING YOUR MEN.
FWOOOOOO
I WANT YOU TO FEAR...
I WANT YOU TO BE RELIEVED THAT WE DID NOT.
MAJOR.
IF WE CANNOT CROSS SWORDS, AT LEAST...
...I JUST WANT YOU TO REMEMBER THAT.
EVEN NOW AS RENEGADES, WE MAINTAIN OUR STRENGTH AND DISCIPLINE.
KCHAK
TO ONE DAY CONQUER AND TRAMPLE YOUR COUNTRY, YOUR CITIES...
WE EXIST AND SURVIVED THIS LONG ONLY...
YES... I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR THINKING THAT.
DISCHARGED ON REQUEST. IN '89, AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WERE YOU... MEDICALLY DISCHARGED?
CHIK
... CAPTAIN.

FL
CK
BUT FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES... I WAS STRIPPED OF MY COLORS...
...FOR AN UNBELIEVABLY SIMPLE REASON, MAJOR.
A BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW DURING A CROSS-BORDER OPERATION...
KLACHAK!!
READY!
I SAVED A CHILD IN A REFUGEE CAMP.
THAT'S ALL.
BRAKKABRAKKABRAKKA
MAJOR.
THIS CRISIS ISN'T OVER FOR YOU.
I PRAY FOR YOUR CONTINUED FORTUNE IN BATTLE AND OFFER YOU A SALUTE.
GOOD LUCK.

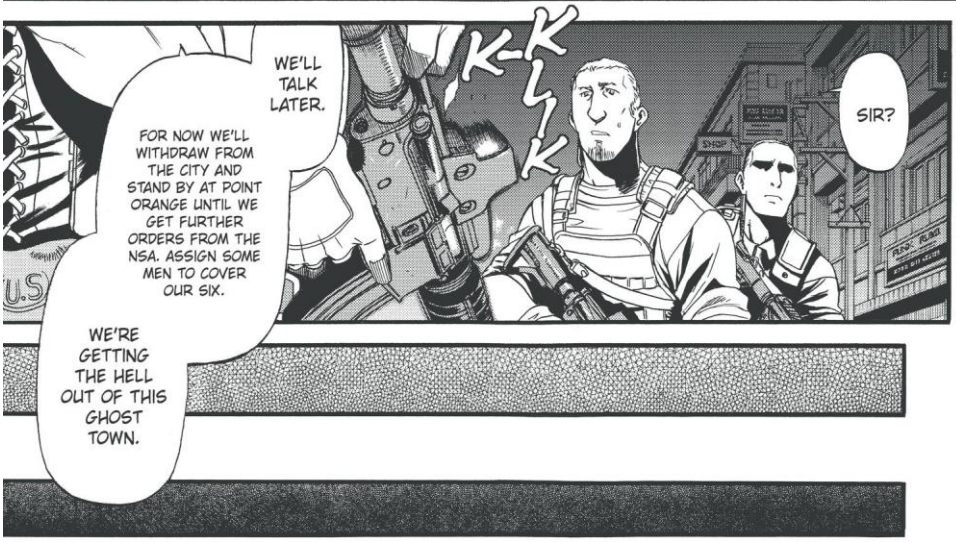



# Chapter 69:
# El Baile de la Muerte - Pt. XXVI

VIOLENCE AND MADNESS...
GWO
ALWAYS GO TOGETHER.
LIKE A NIGHTMARE AFTER A HANGOVER.
THIS PLACE IS ORGANIZED, THERE ARE HIGHWAYS. IT HAS ITS OWN LAWS AND ITS OWN ETHICS.
IT IS A STATE-OF-THE-ART SODOM.
HOW COULD A PLACE LIKE THIS EXIST FOR THIS LONG?
RAY.
WHAT WE HAVE HERE ISN'T LIKE THE CHAOS AT THE BAKARA MARKET.
MAJOR CAXTON!
MAN, ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU, SIR! NO CASUALTIES TO REPORT. SHALL WE PREPARE TO PULL OUT?!
DO WE HAVE TRANS-PORTATION?
SECURED, SIR! WE SHOULD SPLIT UP IN CASE OF SNIPER FIRE!


ALL THIS GUNFIRE, AND NO SIGN OF THE POLICE OR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.
NOT A SINGLE RESIDENT IN THE ALLEYS, BUT...
...BUT, MAJOR...
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS PLACE.
FIVE BLOCKS DOWN, THE STREETS ARE BUSTLING LIKE IT'S JUST ANOTHER NIGHT.
THE COPS ARE THERE, PEOPLE ARE WALKING AROUND, BUT IT'S LIKE THEY CAN'T HEAR WHAT'S GOING ON OVER HERE.

I CAN IMAGINE.
...
YEAH.

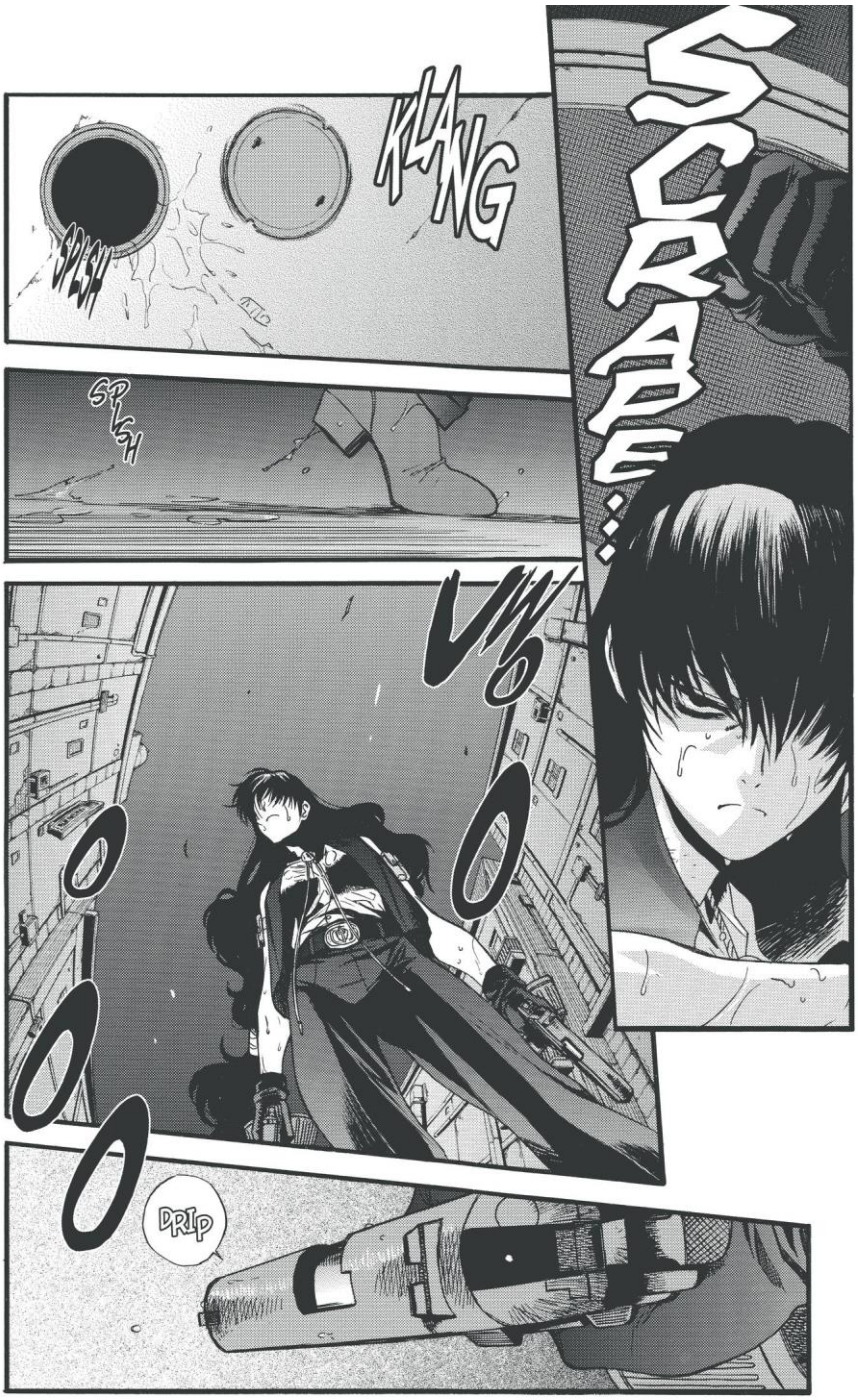

K-K-K-K
WE'LL TALK LATER.
FOR NOW WE'LL WITHDRAW FROM THE CITY AND STAND BY AT POINT ORANGE UNTIL WE GET FURTHER ORDERS FROM THE NSA. ASSIGN SOME MEN TO COVER OUR SIX.
WE'RE GETTING THE HELL OUT OF THIS GHOST TOWN.
SIR?
SHOP
ROAD

FWOOO
HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO DIE FOR HIS FRIENDS.
WHAT A DEVOTED DUDE.
YEAH.
A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP.
FILANO, DON'T RUSH ME SO MUCH.
YOU MADE ME NERVOUS WHEN YOU DIDN'T TAKE CARE OF HIM RIGHT AWAY.
HE SHOULDA FIGURED IT OUT THE MOMENT THEIR PLAN FAILED.
HE WAS OBEDIENT TO A FAULT COMING HERE.
GUNS ARE VULGAR. THEY'RE THE LOWLIEST WEAPON YOU CAN USE TO KILL SOMEBODY.
I'D RATHER USE SOME EVERYDAY ITEM. PREFERABLY, I'D RATHER USE NOTHING AT ALL.
NOBODY CARES WHETHER WE USE A GUN OR A MISSILE.
RIGHT?
YEAH.

STAIRS OR A TRAIN STATION PLATFORM ARE MY FAVORITES.
THE WAY I LOOK, THAT SUITS ME THE BEST.
SOME WAY THAT LOOKS LIKE NATURAL CAUSES OR AN ACCIDENT. IN OTHER WORDS...
DOING IT THE WAY YOU'RE MOST ACCUSTOMED TO IS THE BEST AND SAFEST METHOD.
...IF YOU HAVE TO KILL...
O
BUT IT WOULDN'T HURT TO LEARN HOW TO SHOOT, FILANO.
KLIK
HMPH.
IN OUR LINE OF BUSINESS, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
YEAH, YOU WOULD.
YEAH.
I WILL ONE OF THESE DAYS. I KINDA LIKE FIRST-PERSON SHOOTERS.

IT'S DONE, SIS.
I PUT IN SOME SERIOUS WORK PLANTING IT.
IT WASN'T EASY, BUT I GOT IT ALL. DOCUMENTS, FAREWELL GIFT AND EVERYTHING ELSE.
WELL, ANYWAY ...
WITH THE PASSPORT AND CUSTOMS CERTIFICATE, YOU COULD BRING IN AN ANTIAIRCRAFT MISSILE.
NOW IT'S UP TO HER TO FIND IT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SIS?
DON'T CALL ME, SIS.
FLAP...
IT'S UNUSUAL TO ARRANGE ALL THIS FOR FREE.
YOU GONNA GET ANYTHING IN RETURN FOR THIS, SIS?

RICO.
"DON'T PEEK INTO THE NEXT BATHROOM STALL."
WHAT'S THE FIRST ADAGE IN OUR LINE OF WORK?
EXACTLY.
THOSE ARE WORDS TO LIVE BY. AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT.
NOW, GO REPORT TO SISTER YOLANDA.
OH... AND, UH...
I'LL BE GONE FOR A WHILE, SO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR THE HOUND.
KL
NK

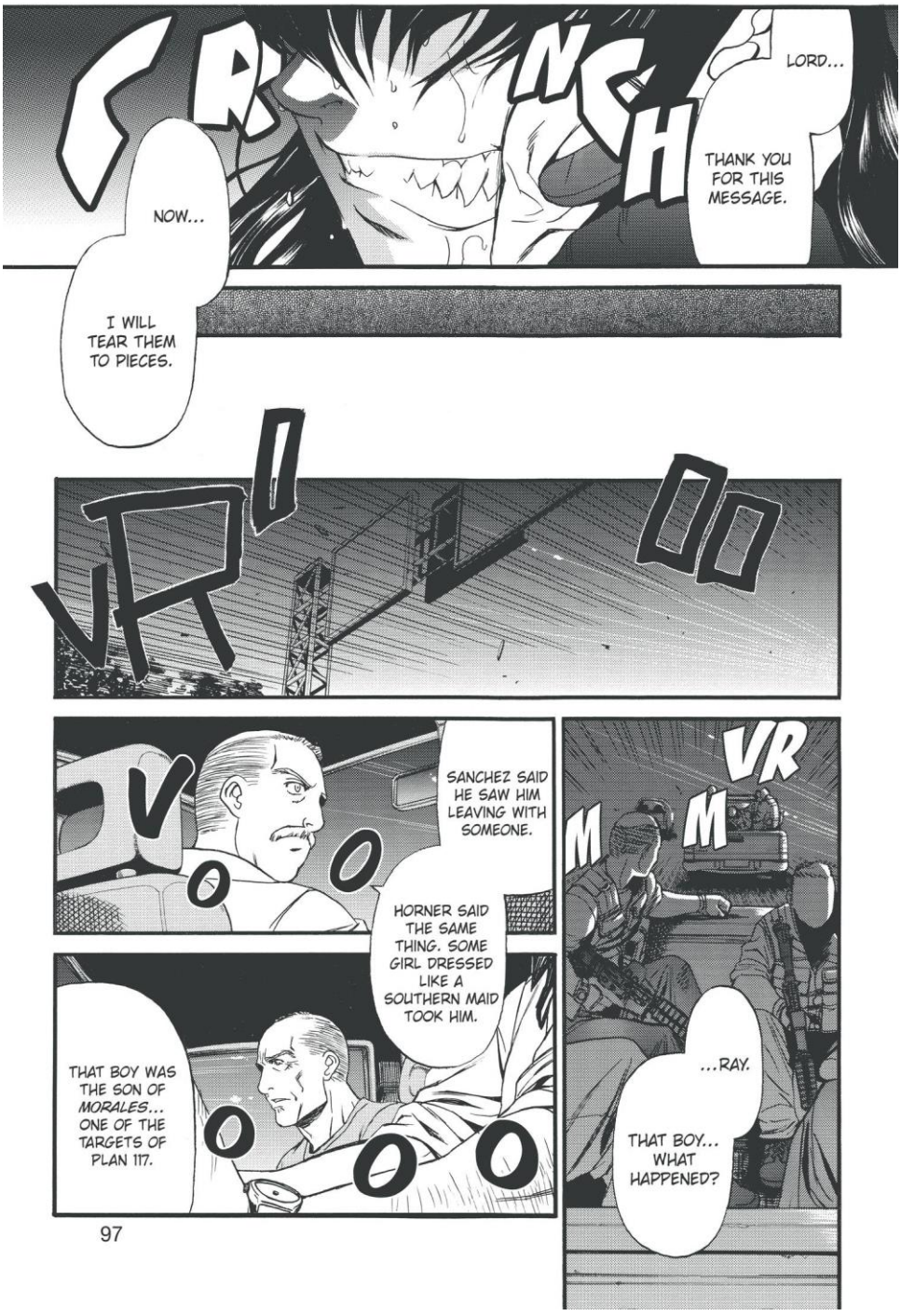

SCRAPE...
KLANG
SPLSH
SPLSH
VWOOOO
DRIP

Shiiiiik.....
KRASH
CONSIDER THIS A STROKE OF LUCK, ROSARITA.
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
YOU DON'T BELONG HERE. YOU CAN SHUT YOUR EYES, BUT...
FWP.

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
KRK
KTNG...
ZSH
TMP
TMP

KR
KLICK
KCH
NK
ARETO

TING
La gaceta no ha termi
dirē dónde está la zorra.
NOTE: THE HUNT IS NOT OVER. I WILL TELL YOU WHERE THE FOX IS.
GLUK
SPLASH
SPLASH
...HEH.
HEH HEH... HEH HEH HEH... HEH HEH HEH.
HAHA HAHA... HA...HA HA...
AHAHAHA HAHA...


GRINCH
LORD...
THANK YOU FOR THIS MESSAGE.
NOW...
I WILL TEAR THEM TO PIECES.
VROOO
VROO
SANCHEZ SAID HE SAW HIM LEAVING WITH SOMEONE.
HORNER SAID THE SAME THING. SOME GIRL DRESSED LIKE A SOUTHERN MAID TOOK HIM.
THAT BOY WAS THE SON OF *MORALES*... ONE OF THE TARGETS OF PLAN 117.
VRM M
...RAY.
THAT BOY... WHAT HAPPENED?

MAYBE I SHOULD'VE STAYED WITH THE JCS, AWAY FROM THE FIELD.
I'M OVER FIFTY.
... RAY.
I FEEL LIKE I AGED A LOT TONIGHT.
VR
R
R
R
TOYOTA
...
...RAY.
C'MON, SHANE.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WAS I...
...WRONG?
...REMEMBER THAT OP BACK IN '69? THAT VILLAGE AT D446 IN THE QUANG-TRI A.O.?
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED I WANTED TO BE LIKE YOU. A MAN WHO ALWAYS DOES THE RIGHT THING.
... SHANE.
WERE YOU WRONG?

# Chapter 70: El Baile de la Muerte - Pt. XXVII

FW
TAKE A HIKE.
YOU'RE A NEWBIE. YOU'RE OUR COMMANDING OFFICER IN NAME ONLY.
LIEUTENANT ABBY GOOSE, GIMME A BREAK.
WE GET TO HAVE SOME FUN, AND YOU GET TO EARN YOUR STRIPES.
IF WE LEAVE IT AT THAT...
THESE GUYS ARE VIETCONG SYMPATHIZERS. THEY'RE COMMIES HIDING WEAPONS.
EVERY-BODY'S HAPPY. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
CLEANING UP THESE DIRTY LITTLE GOOKS PUTS A SMILE ON EVERYBODY'S FACES.
THE BRASS AND THE REPORTERS FROM THE STARS AND STRIPES WILL ALL BE HAPPY.
GO
THAT'S RIGHT!
LARKIN'S RIGHT, GOOSE.
THIS IS A WAR ZONE.
IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME IN WAR.
SO BACK THE FUCK OFF.
YEAH!

...YOU GUYS ARE RIGHT.
THIS KINDA THING HAPPENS ALL THE TIME DURING A WAR.
BUT...
THAT'S STILL THE LOGIC OF A THIEF.
I SHOULD'VE REALIZED IT MUCH EARLIER.
YOU MEN...
...USE THE WAR AS AN EXCUSE AND DISHONOR YOUR COUNTRY. YOU'RE NOTHING BUT BANDITS.

HEY.
D'YOU GUYS HEAR THAT?!
...
HAH... HAH HAH.

HA
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE AND ONLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. OF A.
GO TELL THAT TO NIXON. HE'LL TELL YA HE WANTS TO SLEEP WITH YOU!
HAHA
YOU THE MAN, LIEUTENANT GOOSE!
HA
WHAT WE GOT HERE IS THE LONE RANGER!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

WORSE YET, I DON'T EVEN HAVE TONTO ON MY SIDE.
CHOK
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M A FOOLISH COWARD WHO DIDN'T KNOW HIS OWN MEN WERE WITH THE CAVENDISH GANG... AND I LET THEM KILL ALL THESE VILLAGERS.
YEAH...
I'LL BE THE LONE RANGER.
BUT... THIS CHILD IS STILL ALIVE.
SO...
SHIF
F
LARKIN.
DRAW.

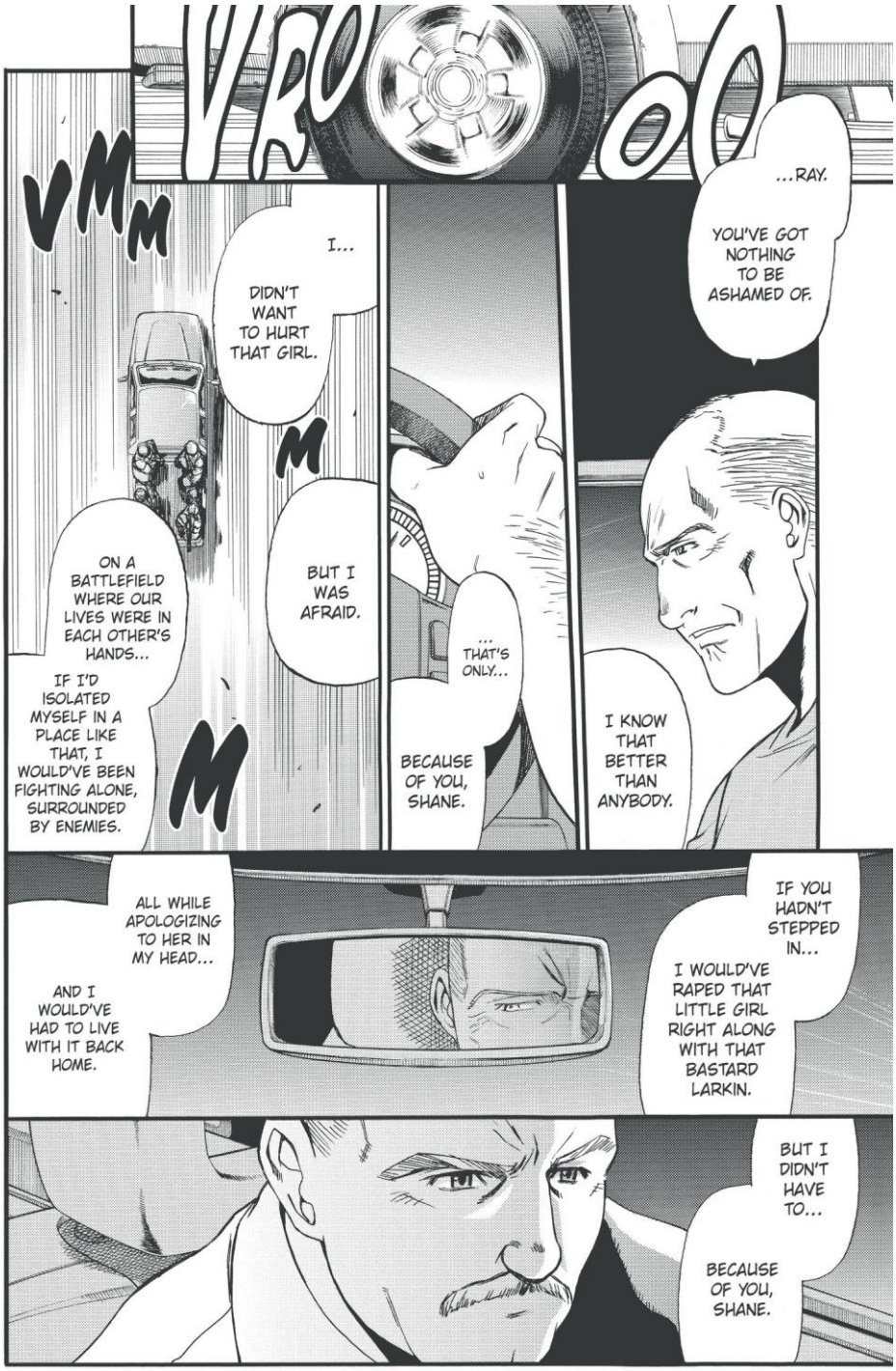
CH
AK
BA
NG
BANG
BLAM
BANG
KBLAM

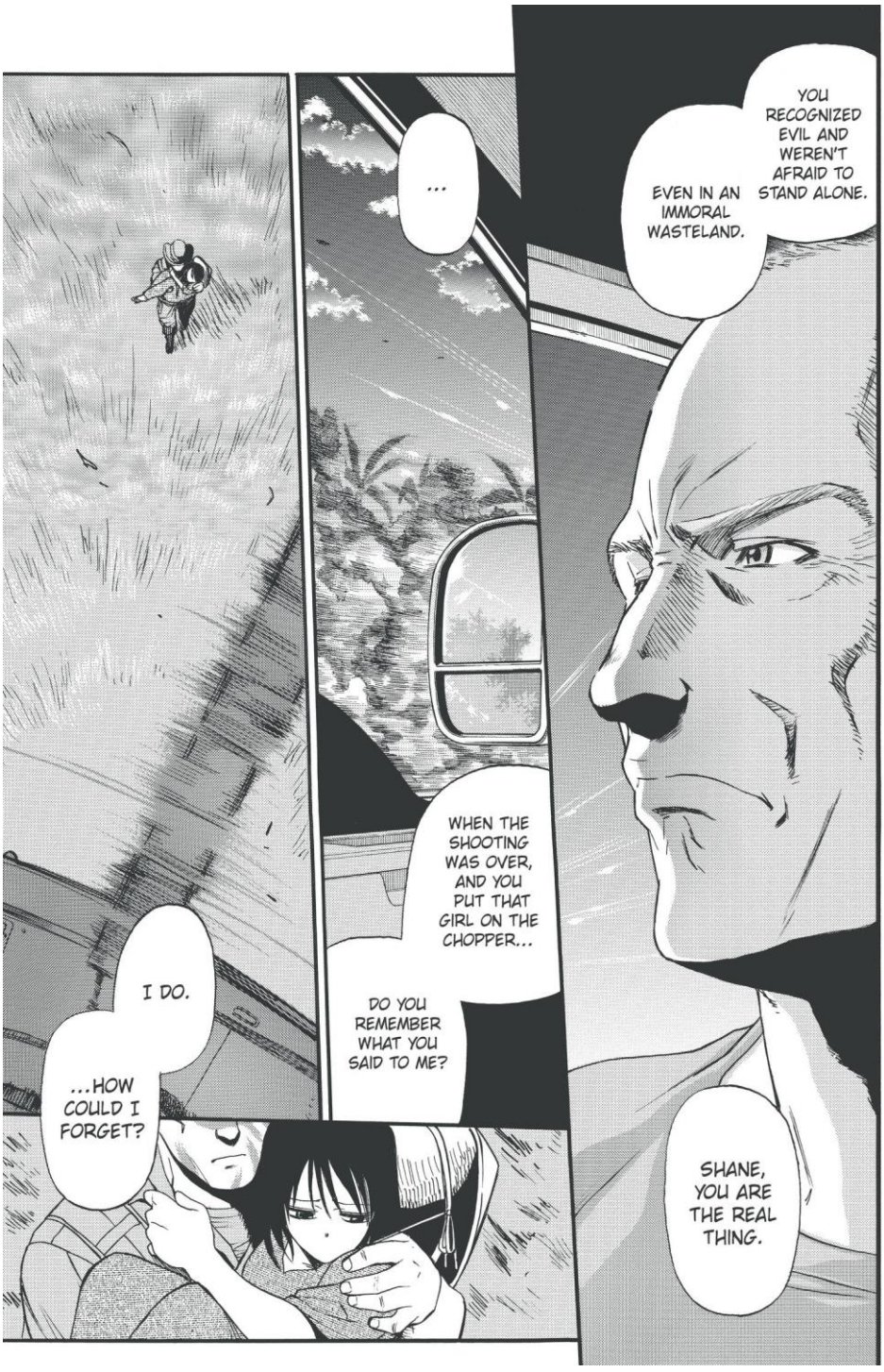
SHOOT!
HE'S GONNA RAT US OUT!
MOTHER-FUCKER...
MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A KIA!
THIS IS A BATTLE-FIELD! NOBODY'LL KNOW!!
THE HELL YOU GUYS WAITIN' FOR!
SHOOT HIM!
CLICK
SHK
CHK
BLAM

IN THE END...
GOO
YOU WERE MY TONTO.
WHY'D YOU BACK ME UP THAT DAY?
OO

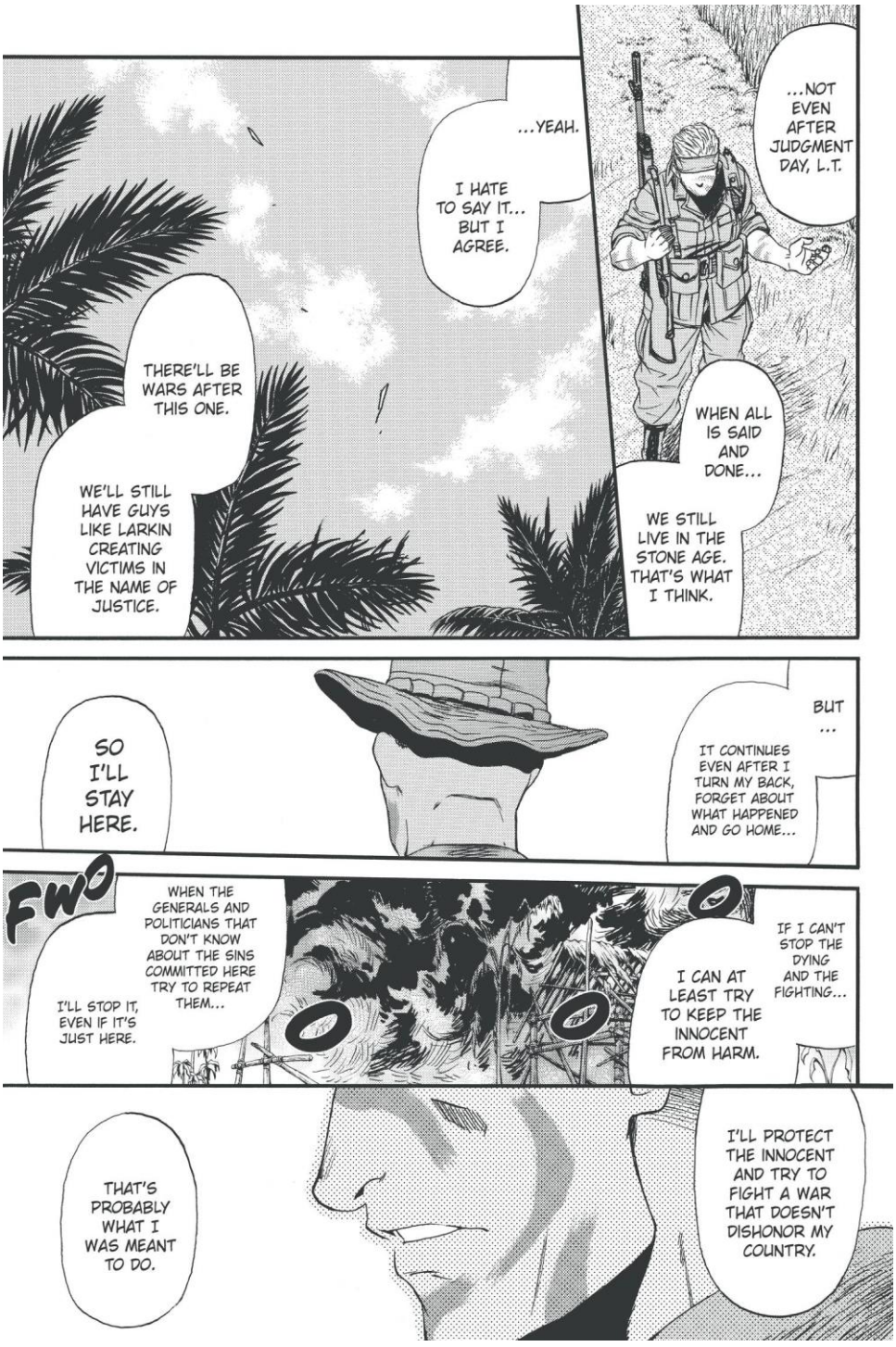
I'VE NEVER TOLD YOU BEFORE.
I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING...
...
LARKIN WAS SCAVENGING THE HOUSES FOR LOOT.
HE CAME OUT STUFFING HIS POCKETS WITH DONG BILLS AND SAID TO ME...
WHEN THAT MASSACRE STARTED...
I LOOKED AWAY AND KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT.
"SHE AIN'T GOT THE BODY OF A SAIGON HOOKER..."
"BUT BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS, RIGHT?"
KLOK
"RAY..."
"SHE'S THE ONLY YOUNG GIRL IN THIS VILLAGE."
"YOU CAN HAVE THE FIRST SIP."
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID TO ME.
"RAY," HE SAYS.
"THIS LITTLE BITCH'S LIKE CHICKEN BONES, BUT THE FIRST SIP OF CAMPBELL'S CHICKEN SOUP IS ALWAYS THE BEST."
YEAH, I AGREE.
BUT...
MMMMMM
...EVEN IF HE'D MADE IT HOME HE STILL WOULD'VE BEEN A SCUMBAG.
MAKES ME SICK JUST HEARING ABOUT IT.

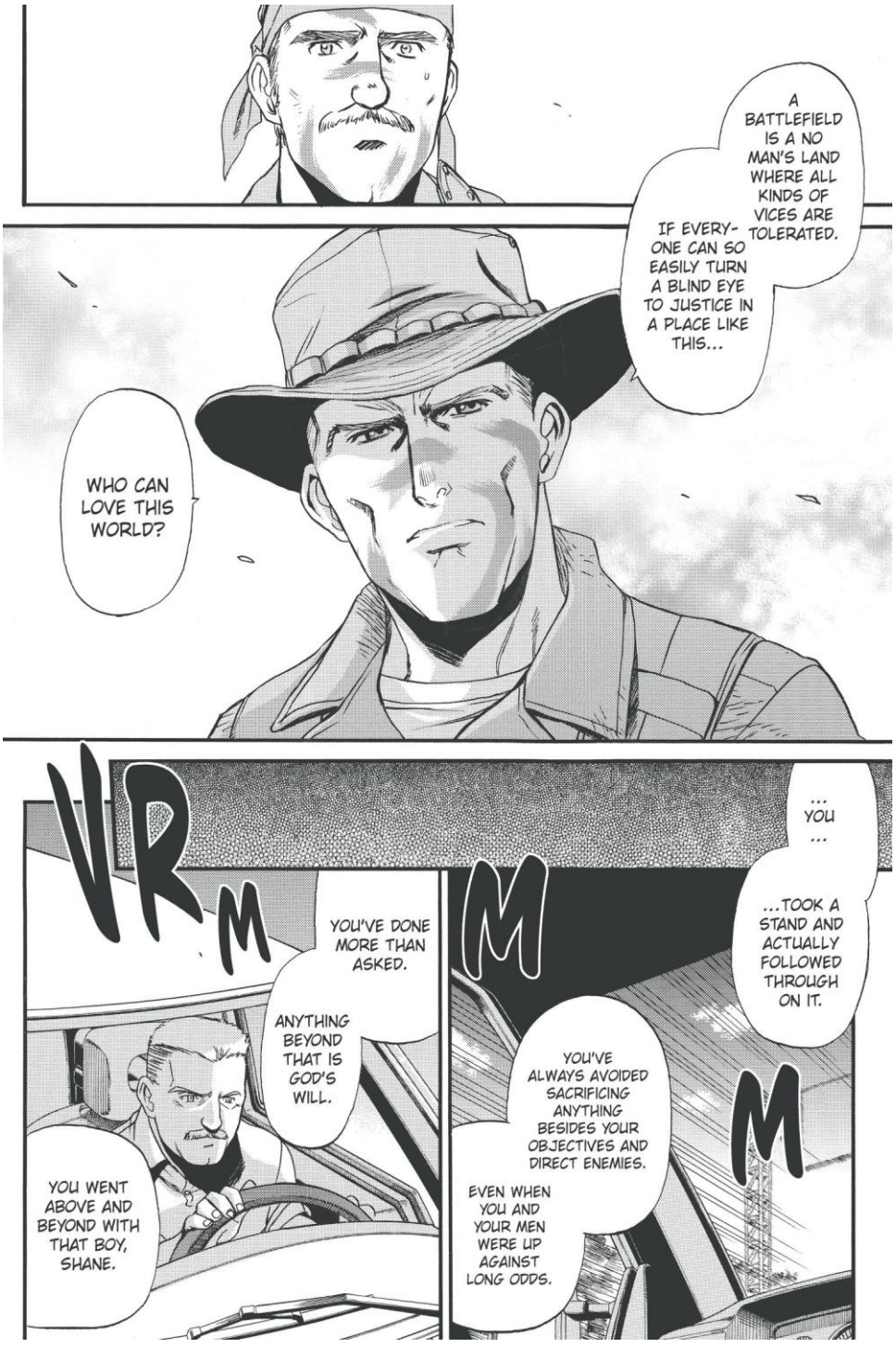
...
...I...
THAT DAY...
SHIT...
...IT'S HARD FOR ME SAY THIS, BUT...
I...


VROOO
VMMM
...RAY.
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
I KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANYBODY.
... THAT'S ONLY...
BECAUSE OF YOU, SHANE.
I...
DIDN'T WANT TO HURT THAT GIRL.
BUT I WAS AFRAID.
ON A BATTLEFIELD WHERE OUR LIVES WERE IN EACH OTHER'S HANDS...
IF I'D ISOLATED MYSELF IN A PLACE LIKE THAT, I WOULD'VE BEEN FIGHTING ALONE, SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES.
M
M
IF YOU HADN'T STEPPED IN...
I WOULD'VE RAPED THAT LITTLE GIRL RIGHT ALONG WITH THAT BASTARD LARKIN.
ALL WHILE APOLOGIZING TO HER IN MY HEAD...
AND I WOULD'VE HAD TO LIVE WITH IT BACK HOME.
BUT I DIDN'T HAVE TO...
BECAUSE OF YOU, SHANE.


SHANE, YOU ARE THE REAL THING.
YOU RECOGNIZED EVIL AND WEREN'T AFRAID TO STAND ALONE.
EVEN IN AN IMMORAL WASTELAND.
...
WHEN THE SHOOTING WAS OVER, AND YOU PUT THAT GIRL ON THE CHOPPER...
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID TO ME?
I DO.
...HOW COULD I FORGET?

WHUP
...
RAY, DO YOU THINK...
WHUP
...WE'LL EVER BE FREE OF WAR?
WHUP
US.ARM


...NOT EVEN AFTER JUDGMENT DAY, L.T.
WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE...
WE STILL LIVE IN THE STONE AGE. THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
...YEAH.
I HATE TO SAY IT... BUT I AGREE.
THERE'LL BE WARS AFTER THIS ONE.
WE'LL STILL HAVE GUYS LIKE LARKIN CREATING VICTIMS IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE.
BUT ...
IT CONTINUES EVEN AFTER I TURN MY BACK, FORGET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AND GO HOME...
SO I'LL STAY HERE.
FWO
IF I CAN'T STOP THE DYING AND THE FIGHTING...
I CAN AT LEAST TRY TO KEEP THE INNOCENT FROM HARM.
WHEN THE GENERALS AND POLITICIANS THAT DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE SINS COMMITTED HERE TRY TO REPEAT THEM...
I'LL STOP IT, EVEN IF IT'S JUST HERE.
I'LL PROTECT THE INNOCENT AND TRY TO FIGHT A WAR THAT DOESN'T DISHONOR MY COUNTRY.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT I WAS MEANT TO DO.


A BATTLEFIELD IS A NO MAN'S LAND WHERE ALL KINDS OF VICES ARE TOLERATED.
IF EVERY-ONE CAN SO EASILY TURN A BLIND EYE TO JUSTICE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
WHO CAN LOVE THIS WORLD?
VRM
YOU'VE DONE MORE THAN ASKED.
ANYTHING BEYOND THAT IS GOD'S WILL.
YOU WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND WITH THAT BOY, SHANE.
M
...
YOU
...
...TOOK A STAND AND ACTUALLY FOLLOWED THROUGH ON IT.
YOU'VE ALWAYS AVOIDED SACRIFICING ANYTHING BESIDES YOUR OBJECTIVES AND DIRECT ENEMIES.
EVEN WHEN YOU AND YOUR MEN WERE UP AGAINST LONG ODDS.
M

BUT...
...
MAYBE.
WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT BOY...
HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
KLUNK!
I'VE BOOKED... TWO SEATS ON A FLIGHT TO...
A LIMOUSINE WILL ARRIVE AT TWO-THIRTY TO TAKE US TO PATTAYA.
... YOUNG MASTER.
THUNK
TOCK

...THE WEATHER'S NICE TODAY...
FABIOLA.
...THIS IS...
...OUR LAST DAY HERE, YOUNG MASTER.
...
I'VE MADE ALL THE NECESSARY ARRANGE-MENTS.
THERE IS NOTHING MORE FOR US TO...
SP
IN
THE WEATHER'S GREAT...
...ON A DAY LIKE THIS...
A SWIM IN THE POOL WOULD BE NICE.

SPLA
BWA!
SH!
IT FEELS GREAT!
C'MON IN!
SPLASH
... GASP!
YOUNG MASTER!
GR
AB!
PLEASE, YOUNG MASTER!
YOU MUST GET OUT...

SPL
OOSH
BLUB!!

Y...
YOUNG MASTER ?!
PLSH
FWA!
GASP!

SPLISH
AHAHA-HAHA!
WELL?
SPLASH
WHAT...
WERE YOU THINKING ?!

IT'S BETTER WITH YOUR CLOTHES ON.
ESPECIALLY ON A DAY LIKE THIS.

# Chapter 71: El Baile de la Muerte - Pt. XXVIII

UH...
UM, WELL...
W-W-WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU...
LIKE THIS...
SPL
SQUIRT
ASH
HA!
WAAA!
GRAB!
YOUNG MASTER!
P-PLEASE CALM DOWN!
LISTEN TO ME...
SPLOOSH
GAH!
HERE!
W-WAIT!
TAKE THAT!
SPLASH

HUH?
HEH...
...
YOU THOUGHT ...
I WAS LOSING MY MIND?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, FABIOLA.
N...
NO!
NOT AT ALL... BUT...
UM...

YOU ...
...MET ROBERTA TOO?
...
YES.
SOON AFTER I WAS SPLIT UP FROM YOU. IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIGHT.
YOU SAW HER TOO?
...YEAH.

YOUNG MASTER.
IT'S VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO SAY THIS, BUT...
I DON'T THINK SHE EVEN REMEMBERS WHY AND FOR WHOM SHE IS DOING IT.
... YEAH.
I KNOW.
UH...
THE HEAD MATRON WAS...
THE HEAD MATRON PROBABLY ISN'T COMING BACK TO THE MANSION.
EVEN IF SHE GETS HER REVENGE...

THINGS WON'T GO BACK TO THE WAY THEY USED TO BE...
EVEN IF WE ARE ABLE TO FORCE HER BACK...
...UNFOR-TUNATELY...

WE THOUGHT IF ROBERTA GOT HER REVENGE EVERYTHING WOULD GO BACK TO NORMAL.
I THOUGHT IF WE COULD TAKE HER HOME EVERYTHING WOULD BE FINE.
BUT ACTUALLY ...
THE MOMENT MY FATHER WAS MURDERED ...
EVERYTHING CHANGED.
ME, ROBERTA ...
EVEN YOU...
WE WERE WRONG.
OF COURSE NOT.
IT'S EXACTLY AS YOU SAID.
WE NO LONGER HAVE A HOME TO GO BACK TO.

DO YOU REALLY THINK...
...SHE... ROBERTA CAME HERE FOR REVENGE?
YOUNG MASTER...
THAT'S...
SPL
ASH!
... FABIOLA.
NO.
I DON'T THINK SO.
OF COURSE REVENGE IS SOMETHING THE HEAD MATRON WANTS...
BUT I BELIEVE HER REAL INTENTIONS LIE ELSE-WHERE...
YEAH.
I KNEW YOU WERE SHARP.
IF WE ASKED HER WHY RIGHT NOW.
SHE'D SAY IT'S ALL FOR REVENGE. BUT...

...WHAT SHE REALLY WANTS IS...
ATONEMENT.
SHE'S PROBABLY MIXED HERSELF UP TOO, BUT...
WITH MY FATHER'S DEATH...
SHE DECIDED TO BLAME THEM...
...FOR EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO HER.
THE HEAD MATRON IS...
...EARNEST TO A FAULT AND VERY INDISCREET.
REGARDLESS OF GOOD AND EVIL...LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE COME TO TERMS WITH MURDER.
BUT THE HEAD MATRON THINKS THAT IS INSINCERE.
YUP.
THAT AMERICAN MAJOR TOO. HE DREW A LINE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL WITHIN HIMSELF.
A SOLUTION THAT SOLVES EVERYTHING... DOESN'T EXIST.
THAT'S WHY...

GR
...
THAT'S WHY...
SHE...
... FABIOLA.
LISTEN TO ME CARE-FULLY.
THIS IS IMPORTANT.

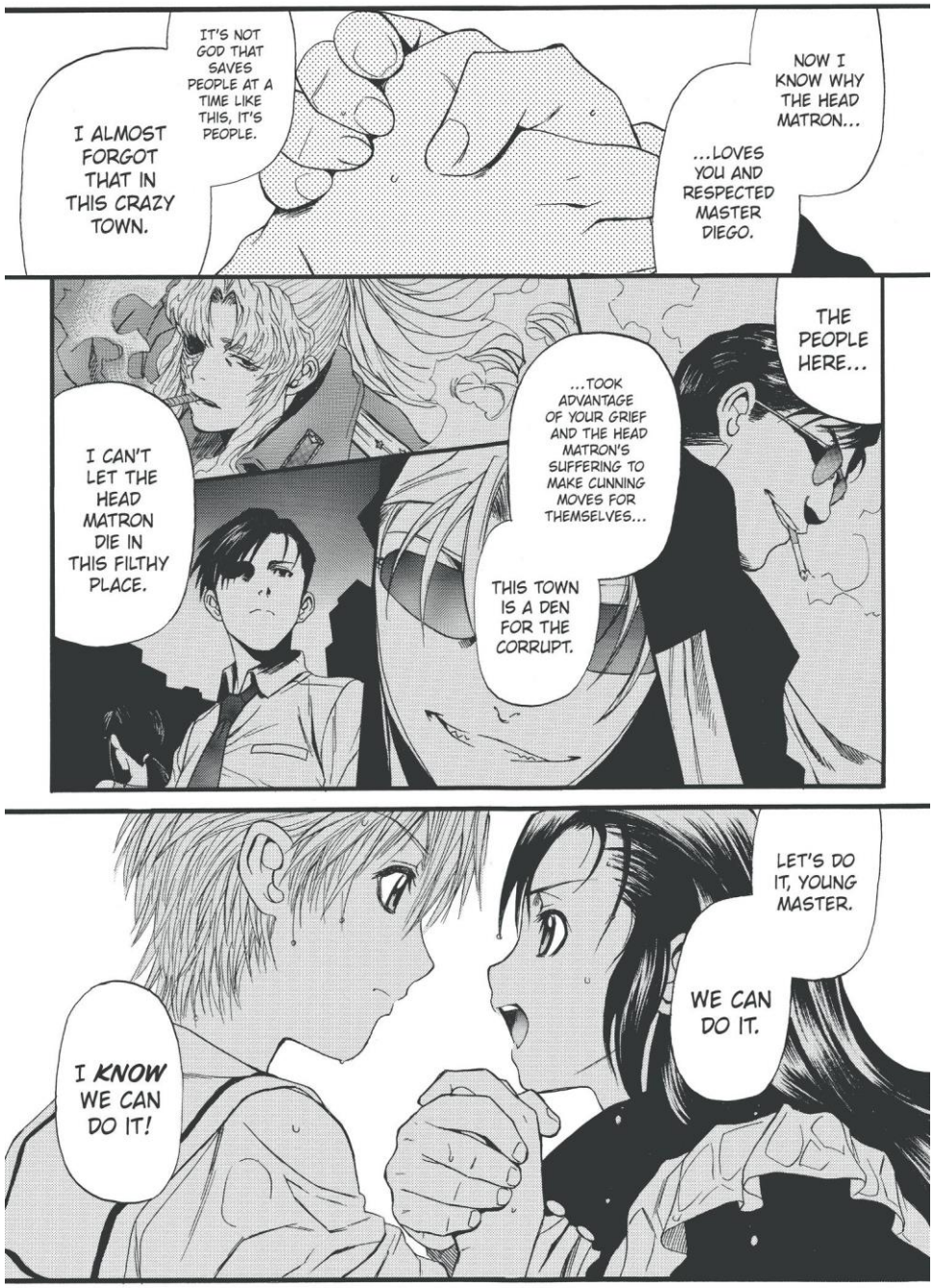
I'M...
...GOING TO SAVE HER.
BUT TO DO THAT...
I NEED YOUR HELP.
I KNOW I'M ASKING A LOT FROM YOU.
IF IT'S TOO MUCH... YOU CAN RETURN TO VENEZUELA AHEAD OF ME.
I'LL HEAD BACK TO THE MANSION...
...AFTER I SAVE ROBERTA.
FWOOO
ZWIP

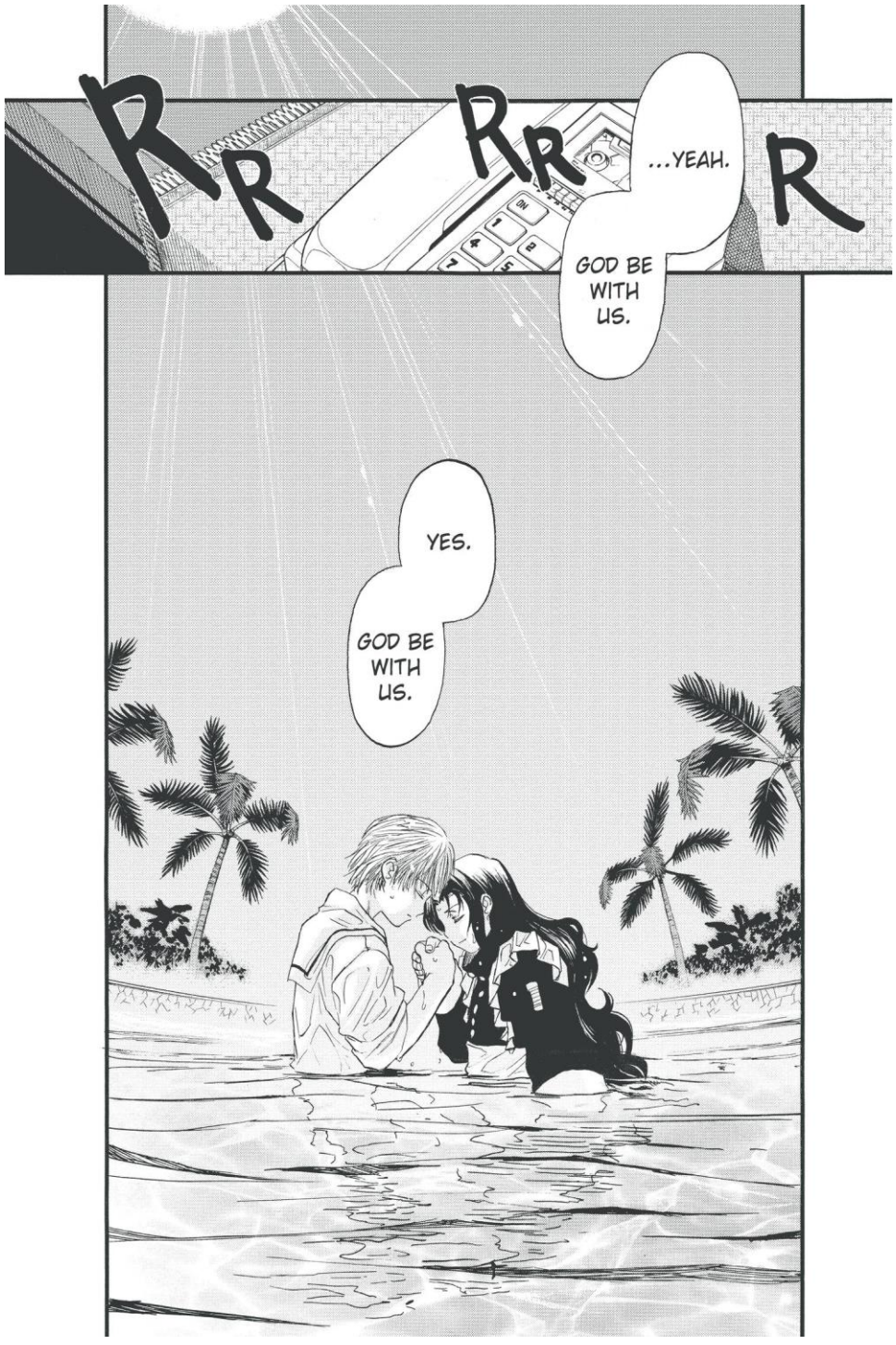
...YOUNG MASTER.
THE HEAD MATRON'S PROBABLY GONNA STAY THE WAY SHE IS. ...NO.
BY THE TIME WE GET TO HER, SHE COULD BE IN WORSE SHAPE.
EVEN WORSE THAN...
...WHEN WE SAW HER.
THIS GOES BEYOND A MASTER-SERVANT RELATIONSHIP.
I WANT YOU TO HEAR ME OUT WITH THAT IN MIND.
THE HEAD MATRON'S PROBLEM IS SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE SOLVED.
YOUNG MASTER, THIS IS NO JOKE.
THE DIFFICULT PART ISN'T WHAT WE'RE GOING THROUGH NOW, IT'LL BE WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER.
THE SUFFERING WILL CONTINUE, FOREVER.
LIKE YOU SAID YOURSELF, YOUNG MASTER...
WE HAVE NO PLACE TO RETURN TO, RIGHT?

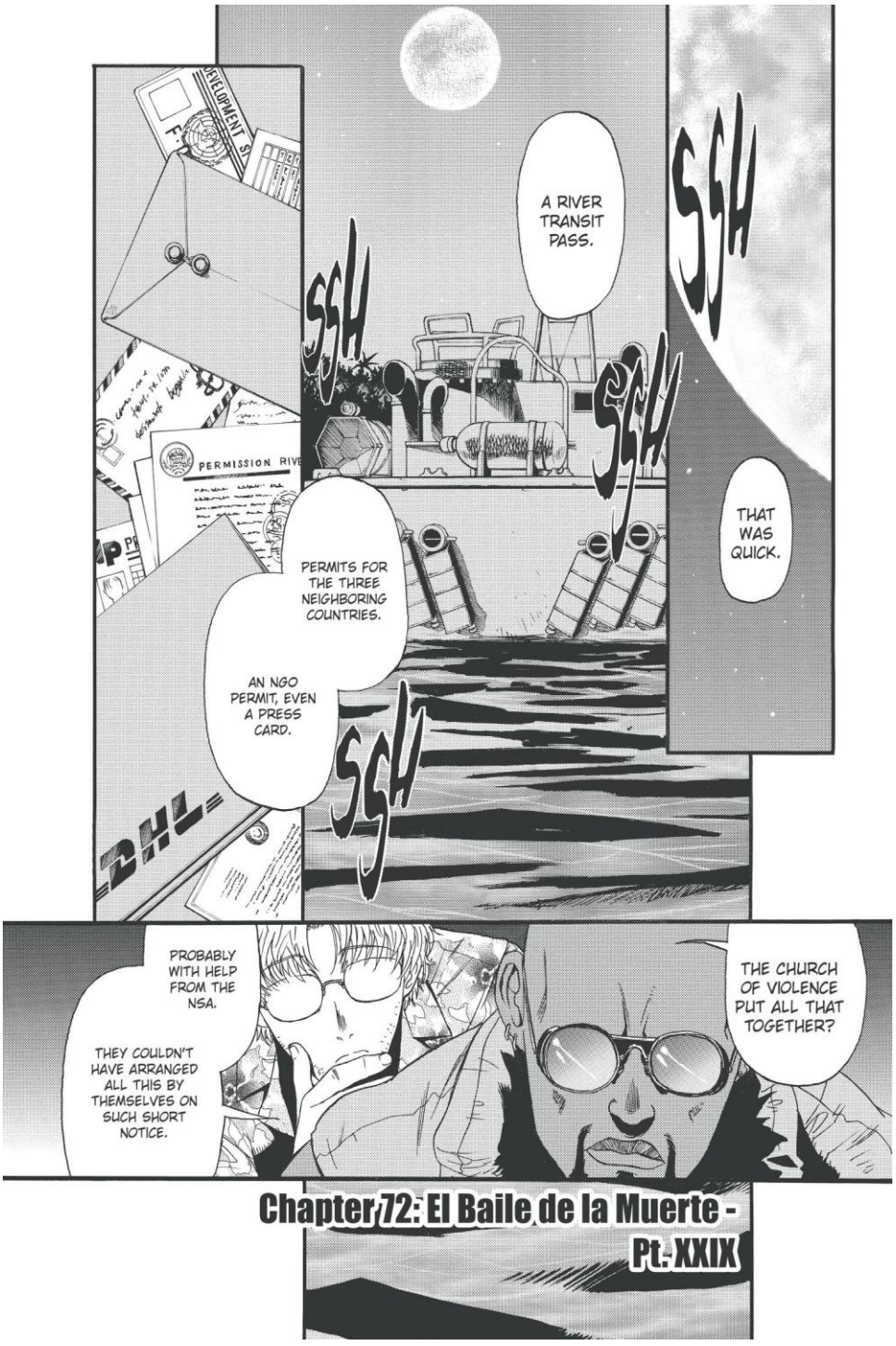
BY COMING HERE...
I LEARNED EVERYTHING ROBERTA FEARS AND CARRIES WITH HER.
AND I'VE BEEN...
I CAN'T BE HER SAINT.
BUT...
...YES, FABIOLA.
BUT...
WE CAN START OVER WITH HER...
...WITHOUT FORGETTING WHAT HAPPENED.

I MET THE MAN WHO KILLED MY FATHER.
I FOUND OUT WHAT KIND OF MAN HE WAS, WHAT HE WAS THINKING.
I FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT. THAT'S WHY I'M FEELING SO FREE RIGHT NOW.
...THINKING THIS WHOLE TIME...
WHAT IT IS I HAVE TO DO HERE, WHAT IT IS THAT I CAN DO.
I CAN BE HER CRUTCH.
IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
BUT WHAT WE DO FROM HERE.

SWIP
...OKAY.
SO WE'RE GOING THROUGH WITH THIS, HUH?
SPLISH
EVEN I THOUGHT SHE WAS DONE.
NO MATTER HOW GOOD-NATURED YOU SEEMED TO BE...
PLOP
I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD HANDLE IT.
IN THE END I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST ANOTHER NAÏVE RICH KID.
BUT...
HONESTLY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA STEP AWAY FROM THIS.
AFTER SEEING THE HEAD MATRON LIKE THAT...
YOU'RE GONNA DO IT, AREN'T YOU?
YOUNG MASTER.
GRIP


NOW I KNOW WHY THE HEAD MATRON...
...LOVES YOU AND RESPECTED MASTER DIEGO.
IT'S NOT GOD THAT SAVES PEOPLE AT A TIME LIKE THIS, IT'S PEOPLE.
I ALMOST FORGOT THAT IN THIS CRAZY TOWN.
THE PEOPLE HERE...
...TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOUR GRIEF AND THE HEAD MATRON'S SUFFERING TO MAKE CUNNING MOVES FOR THEMSELVES...
THIS TOWN IS A DEN FOR THE CORRUPT.
I CAN'T LET THE HEAD MATRON DIE IN THIS FILTHY PLACE.
LET'S DO IT, YOUNG MASTER.
WE CAN DO IT.
I KNOW WE CAN DO IT!


R
R
R
R
R
...YEAH.
GOD BE WITH US.
YES.
GOD BE WITH US.




# Chapter 72: El Baile de la Muerte - Pt. XXIX

WE'RE CUTTING IT PRETTY CLOSE, DUTCH...
KSHH
ONCE WE CROSS THE BORDER, WE NEED TO MAKE IT TO LAOS WHILE IT'S STILL DARK.
THE GPS AND ECHO SOUNDER ARE ALL WE'VE GOT. I CAN'T PUSH IT TOO FAST.
THERE ARE A LOT OF PLACES WHERE THE WATERLINE AND THE SURVEY DATA DON'T MATCH.
BRRM
IT'S LIKE FEELING YOUR WAY THROUGH A TOMB.
I'M LOOKING THROUGH THE LATEST SURVEYS.
THEY'RE FROM A PRIVATE MINING COMPANY, SO IT SHOULD BE PRETTY ACCURATE.
THIS IS CRAZY.
...ACCORDING TO ROCK, THAT MAID'S STILL CHASING OUR CARGO AS WE SPEAK.
HER SKILLS AND TENACITY ARE PROVEN. I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH HER IF POSSIBLE.
SHOULD WE HAVE SAID NO?
I WOULD'VE LIKED TO.
BUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE UNIQUE THIS TIME.

RIGHT AFTER ROCK BROUGHT THIS MESSY JOB IN...
I GOT A CALL FROM MR. CHANG.
I'D LIKE TO KNOW SINCE WHEN ROCK BECAME A REP FOR THE YEET HAU FILM COMPANY.
THE REAL CLIENT IS THE NSA.
THE PAY IS GOOD AND WE MAY NEED THEIR HELP IN THE FUTURE, RIGHT?
DAMN RIGHT.
EVEN COMING FROM MR. CHANG, WE WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THE JOB IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT.
JUST IMAGINING THAT CYBERDYNE SYSTEMS MAID SETTING HER SIGHTS ON US MAKES ME PISS MY PANTS.
WE GOTTA PROTECT OUR-SELVES...
BUT WITH REVY...
ACTIN' THE WAY SHE IS...
SPL
OOSH

KLANG
AU
WHF!
FUCK ME.
THE WOUND OPENED UP A LITTLE AGAIN.
FABIOLA, GIMME AN EXCEDRIN.
KLATTAKLAK KLAK
THIS FUCKING BLOWS.
DOC SAID I'M USELESS FOR TWO MORE WEEKS.
BALA, THAT BITCH. SHOOTIN' MY TOOLS OF THE TRADE.
IF FUCKING FOUR EYES SHOWS UP NOW, ALL I CAN DO IS CUSS AT HER.
WATCH YOUR MOUTH. SHE'S NOT, "FUCKING FOUR EYES."
WHAT DOES P-R-O-V-I-D-E MEAN?

SHAA
SHAA
"PROVIDE"?
IT MEANS TO GIVE OR PREPARE SHIT PEOPLE NEED. SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT.
I DON'T KNOW IF THE SPELLING'S RIGHT, I QUIT SCHOOL IN THE MIDDLE OF JUNIOR HIGH.
STUDYING AT A TIME LIKE THIS, HUH?
THAT'S DEDICATION.
WELL, BECAUSE OF IT...
I'M ABLE TO UNDERSTAND SOME OF YOUR NONSENSE.
HMPH.
YOU SEEM DIFFERENT.
HOW SO?
NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
YOU'VE COME CLEAN.
IT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SHOOT SOMEBODY.

FABIOLA, THERE'S SOMETHING...
I NEED TO TELL YOU BEFORE IT STARTS AGAIN.
IT'S ABOUT YOUR YOUNG MASTER.
... GARCIA.
THEY'LL BE COMING ON BOARD SOON.
WHEN THEY MEET, THEY'LL HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
BUT ...
ONLY YOU CAN RESOLVE IT AMICABLY.
...THAT'S EXACTLY WHY...
YOU CALLED ME.

...ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
SEÑOR ROCK.
THAT'S RIGHT.
...I WON'T LET ANYBODY DIE ANYMORE.
I...
FAILED TO END THIS BACK IN TOWN.
BUT...
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE AND SHE'S STILL ALIVE.
THE GAME'S NOT OVER YET. THAT'S HOW I CAME TO TERMS WITH IT.
PLACING A STRAIGHT-UP BET AND HITTING IT.
THAT'S THE BEST POSSIBLE ...
...OUTCOME IN THIS GAME.

GROAR
I WON'T MISS NEXT TIME.
...I'M NOT...
NOT LIKE THAT FOOL, ROCK.
I DON'T THINK YOUR YOUNG MASTER CAN DO ANYTHING AT ALL.
YOU...
ARE THE GOLDEN KEY.
THAT'S WHY...
IF THE SHIT HITS THE FAN, YOU'RE THE ACE IN THE HOLE.

IT'S NOT ME.
THE ONLY PERSON THAT CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...
...IS HIM.
...
NEITHER LOGIC NOR LOVE CAN MAKE SENSE OF ALL THIS.
ONLY A DARK ROUND HOLE MADE BY A 9MM ROUND.
FL
IK
...YOU THINK...
THAT'S WHAT WILL SOLVE THIS?
SO WHAT IF I DO?
I SHOULDA BROUGHT A LOUISVILLE SLUGGER INSTEAD?

...NO.
YOU JUST DON'T...
WOW
FOR ONE THING...
AT THIS POINT IN THE GAME...
A GUN'S NOT GONNA WORK ON THE HEAD MATRON, EVEN IF YOU'RE THERE.
...GET IT.
AND TWO.
YOU AND I...
REALLY AREN'T SEEING THE SAME THING.

...
AND HERE I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO SAY SOMETHING PROFOUND.
POOF!
WHETHER YOU KILL SOMEBODY OR NOT...
YOU AND I BOTH ARE JUST DOGS IN A DITCH.
HMPH.
THE YOUNG MASTER AGAIN.
EVERYONE'S ALL, "THE YOUNG MASTER THIS, THE YOUNG MASTER THAT."
HE'S ONE SCARY KID, I TELL YA.
IF HE'D BEEN BORN IN HARLEM, HE MAYBE COULDA BEEN THE GREATEST PIMP OF ALL TIME.
...I KNOW THAT. IT'S NOT THAT I CHANGED.
BUT THE YOUNG MASTER HAS.

...
...FINE, WHATEVER.
THERE'S NO POINT IN ME TALKING ANYMORE.
IT'S USELESS TALKING TO YOU.

YOU GOT A MOUTH ON YOU, KID.
DON'T FORGET YOU COME FROM THE DUMPS. THE WORLD LOOKING LIKE A FLOWER GARDEN TO YOU NOW?
YOU CAN HAIL THE YOUNG MASTER AS JEHOVAH ALL YOU WANT.
BUT IF YOU THINK HE CAN SQUEEZE OUT GOLD BRICKS, YOU'RE WRONG.

I THOUGHT JUST MAYBE...
TUP
...MAYBE.
FORGET IT. THIS CONVERSATION IS OVER.
BUT NO, YOU'RE STILL AN IDIOT.
YA
NK
... HMPH.
HOLD ON.
WHO THE FUCK DO YOU–

SHAK!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH CALLING AN IDIOT AN IDIOT, YOU IDIOT.
THIS IS SO STUPID.
IT'S A WASTE OF TIME, BUT I'LL HUMOR YOU ONE LAST TIME.

I'M NOT THE ONE WHO THINKS THE WORLD IS A FLOWER GARDEN.
MAYBE...
...IT'S YOU.
YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT KICKED OUT OF THE GARDEN?
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE BITTER ABOUT EVERYTHING?
WHAT I WANTED TO SAY WAS...
THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND ME.

I KNOW WHY YOU TALK SO BADLY...
...ABOUT THE YOUNG MASTER.
YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU?
YOU CAN'T ACCEPT THAT SOMEBODY IS WILLING TO RISK THEIR LIFE FOR ANOTHER FOR UNSELFISH REASONS.
YOU CAN'T ACCEPT THAT PEOPLE LIKE HIM EXIST IN THIS WORLD.
WHY?
BECAUSE THEN IT'D ALL BE A LIE.
THIS CESSPOOL OF A WORLD YOU SPEAK OF.
VW
I DON'T THINK THE WORLD IS A FLOWER GARDEN OR A CESSPOOL.
THIS WORLD IS GREY LIKE A SEWER RAT.
EVERYTHING'S VAGUE. IT'S GREY, FOR BETTER OR WORSE.

I'VE SEEN SO MANY ASSHOLES THAT THINK OF PEOPLE LIKE US AS NOTHING MORE THAN PIGS.
...SURE.
HATE THEM. I'VE THOUGHT OF KILLING THEM SO MANY TIMES. BUT...
DOING THE SAME TO THEM ONLY FILLS THE CESSPOOL WITH MORE SHIT.
ISN'T THAT TRUE? OR AM I WRONG?
...
FINE.
CLICK
SHC
HOK
LIVE AN HONEST AND POOR LIFE.
BY THE TIME YOU DIE IN A PIGSTY, MAYBE YOU'LL HAVE FOUND HEAVEN.
BUT THEN AGAIN, THE DAY YOU FIND HEAVEN MAY BE SOONER THAN YOU THINK.

WHAT LITTLE REASON I HAD TO SAVE YOUR ASS IS GONE NOW.
I HOPE THE HEAD MATRON EATS YOU AND YOUR YOUNG MASTER.
CHIQUITA.
...THERE'S NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND ME.
MAYBES ARE A WASTE OF TIME.
WHATEVER HAPPENS, HAPPENS. THAT'S LIFE.
NONE OF THAT MATTERS ANYMORE.
IT'S WHO WE'VE MET ALONG THE WAY. THAT'S ALL.
...YOU ALWAYS...
LAUGH WITH SUCH CONTEMPT.
MAYBE IF YOU HAD-
HAVE YOU SEEN YOUR FACE IN A MIRROR?

YOUR LAUGH...
IS LIKE...
...THE SKELETONS ON EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS.
...
... HAH!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M SURPRISED YOU NOTICED, LITTLE GIRL.
I CAME ALL THE WAY FROM THE LAND OF THE DEAD...

FROM THE DARK DEPTHS OF THE BURIAL TOMB, GUN IN HAND.
WE ALL DID. ME, YOUR HEAD MATRON, THOSE SOLDIERS, THE PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN, EVERY LAST ONE OF US...
SO, LITTLE GIRL.
OFFER UP SOME MARIGOLDS AND SOME CUERVO.
THEN ...
TO THE POOR LITTLE GIRL WHO'S ABOUT TO DIE FAR AWAY IN ASIA...
I'LL OFFER HER SOME CHOCOLATE.
AHA HA HA HA HA.
VROO
LOOK, DUTCH.
VROO
YEAH. THEY'RE RIGHT ON TIME.
SWITCH WITH ME. I'M GOING OUT TO HELP REVY.

*SEE EDITOR'S NOTE, VOLUME 1

I KNOW YOU GUYS MUST BE TIRED, BUT UNFORTUNATELY WE DON'T HAVE A CABIN THAT CAN FIT ALL OF YOU.
SOME OF YOU WILL HAVE TO SQUEEZE INTO THE ENGINE ROOM AND SWITCH WHEN YOU WANNA SLEEP.
OKAY. I'LL TELL THEM.
FAMILIAR?
HE'S A VIETNAM VET. HE WAS ONE OF YOU GUYS.
WELL, I'M HEADING BACK TO MY ROOM. ENJOY THE CRUISE.
HE'S FAMILIAR WITH THE TERRAIN, SO WE SHOULD BE FINE EVEN ON THIS BOAT.
WE'LL BE MONITORING THE DEPTH, SO IT'S UP TO HIS DRIVING SKILLS.
BUT...
YOUR SKIPPER EXPLAINED IT TO ME, BUT...
ARE YOU SURE WE CAN TRAVEL THE RIVER AT NIGHT?
CHNK
SO YOU'RE A VIETNAM VET. WHAT A COINCIDENCE, SO AM I.
WHAT UNIT?
...
BROWN WATER NAVY, TF116, 4TH SQUADRON.
FLIK
FLIK
FLIK
YOU SEEM PRETTY YOUNG.
I LIED ABOUT MY AGE WHEN I ENLISTED.

*LURP: ARMY SLANG FOR LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE PATROL (LRRP)

KREAK
YOU BUSY, DUTCH?
NAH.
I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET RID OF OUR CHATTY CLIENT.
THAT'S PERFECT.
MR. CAXTON.
WE HAVE OTHER GUESTS BESIDES YOU AND YOUR MEN ON BOARD TONIGHT.
ONE OF THOSE GUESTS WISHES TO HAVE YOUR AUDIENCE.
BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
HE'S JUST A CHILD.

SHAA
...WHAT IS THIS, SKIPPER?
I'LL SEA-JACK YOU RIGHT THIS MOMENT IF NEED BE.
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.
HE'S JUST A CHILD, MAJOR.
SHAA
SHAA
SHAA
Chapter 73:
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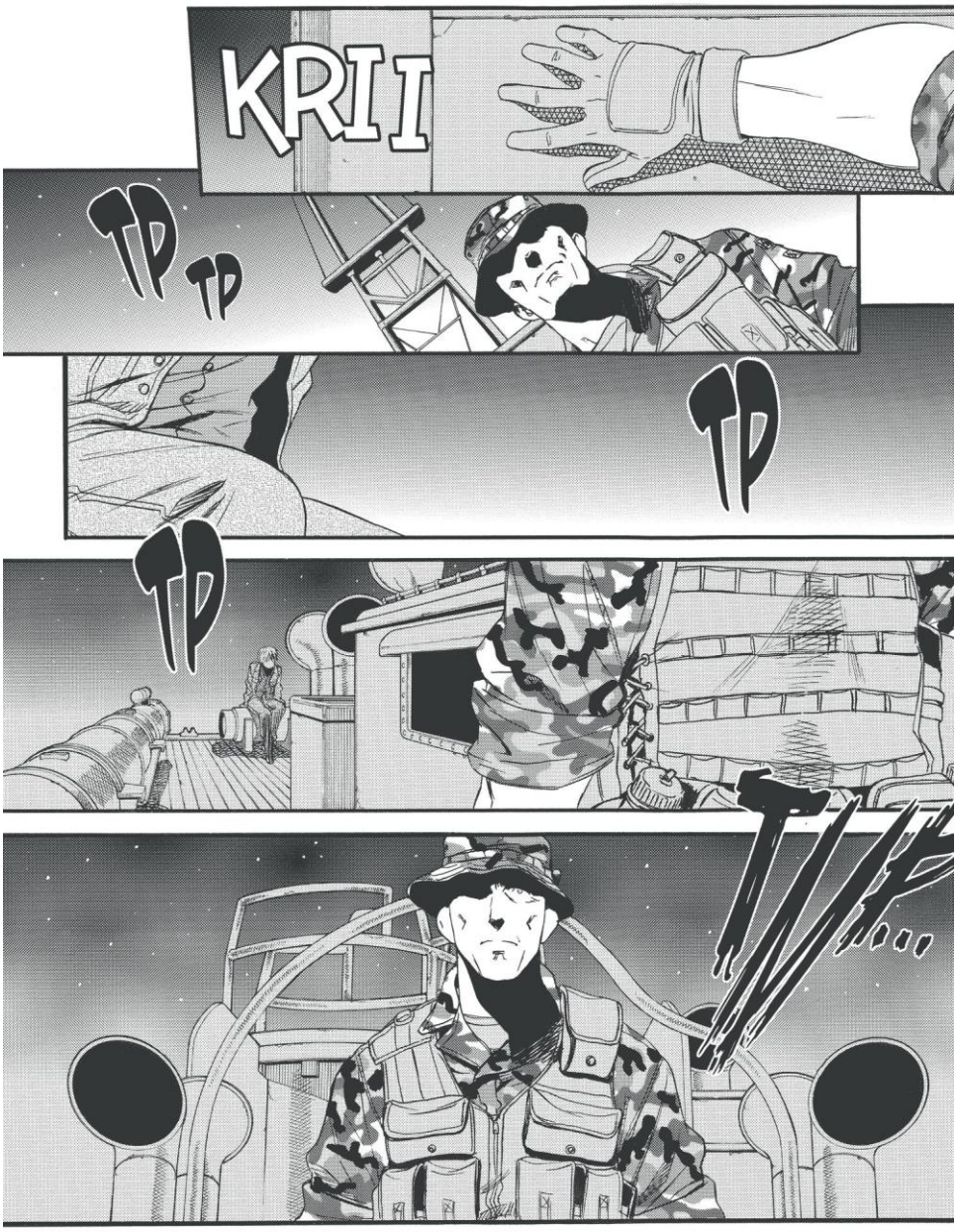
SHAA
HE'S ON THE DECK.
WE HAVE SOME TIME BEFORE WE REACH OUR DESTINATION.
HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE FOR YOU. HE MUST HAVE A LOT HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

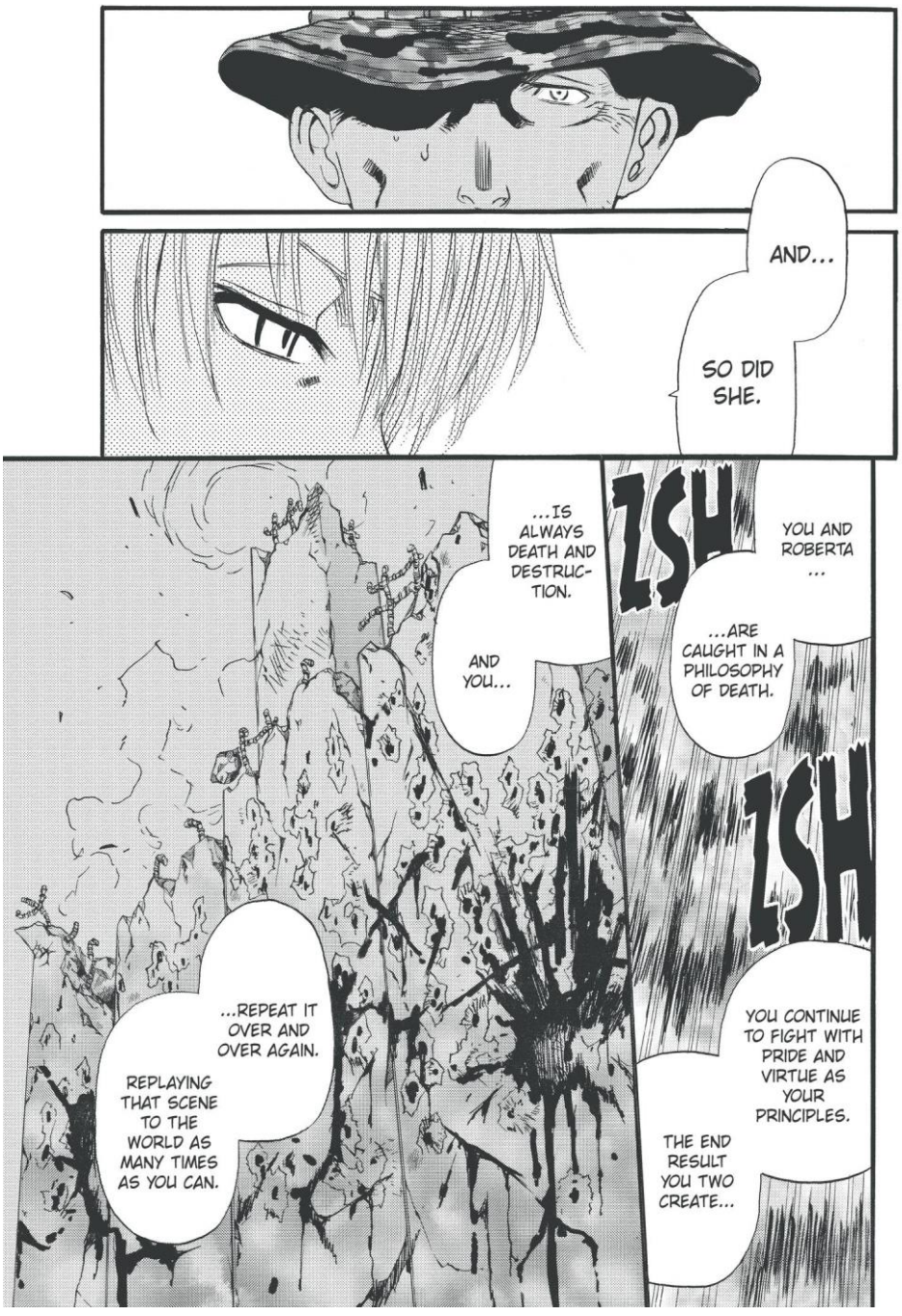

KRII
TD TD
TD
TD

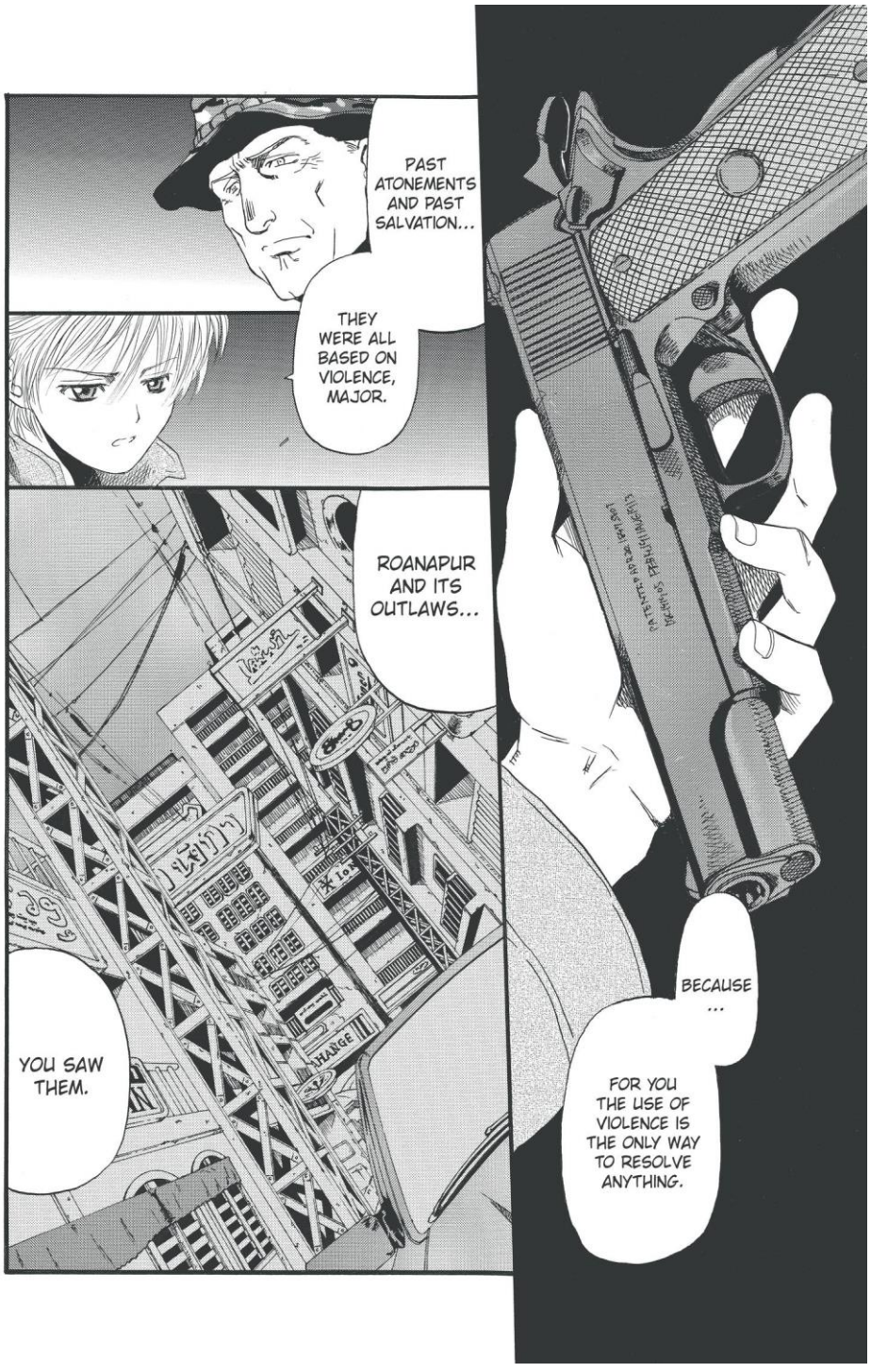
ZS H H H
...IT'S YOU.
I KNEW WE'D MEET AGAIN.
CH IK

GWOOOO
...
SO...
YOU...
THIS BELONGS TO YOU.
...MAJOR.
I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
OF COURSE NOT.

I WILL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU DID.
WHETHER YOU PERSONALLY INTENDED IT OR NOT...
MY FAMILY WAS RUINED.
NOTHING WILL EVER BE THE WAY IT WAS.
BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU DID.
...
THEN THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON...
...TO SHOOT ME. I'M PREPARED FOR THAT AS WELL.
BUT WHY?
WHY DO YOU KEEP ALL THAT ANGER IN YOU?
YET YOU WON'T SHOOT ME. WHY?

I RESPECT YOU. THAT'S NOT A LIE.
...AN HONORABLE AND HIGH-MINDED SOLDIER, MAJOR.
?
YOU REALLY ARE...
YOU TOOK THE WRONG PATH, JUST AS SHE DID.
BUT ...
ALL THE SAME...
IN DOING SO, YOU USED...
DEATH AND VIOLENCE.
BUT...
TO TRY TO SAVE THOSE THAT WANTED TO LIVE.
YOU FOLLOWED YOUR PRIDE AND THE VALUES YOU BELIEVED IN...


AND...
SO DID SHE.
YOU AND ROBERTA ...
ZSH
...ARE CAUGHT IN A PHILOSOPHY OF DEATH.
ZSH
...IS ALWAYS DEATH AND DESTRUC-TION.
AND YOU...
YOU CONTINUE TO FIGHT WITH PRIDE AND VIRTUE AS YOUR PRINCIPLES.
THE END RESULT YOU TWO CREATE...
...REPEAT IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
REPLAYING THAT SCENE TO THE WORLD AS MANY TIMES AS YOU CAN.

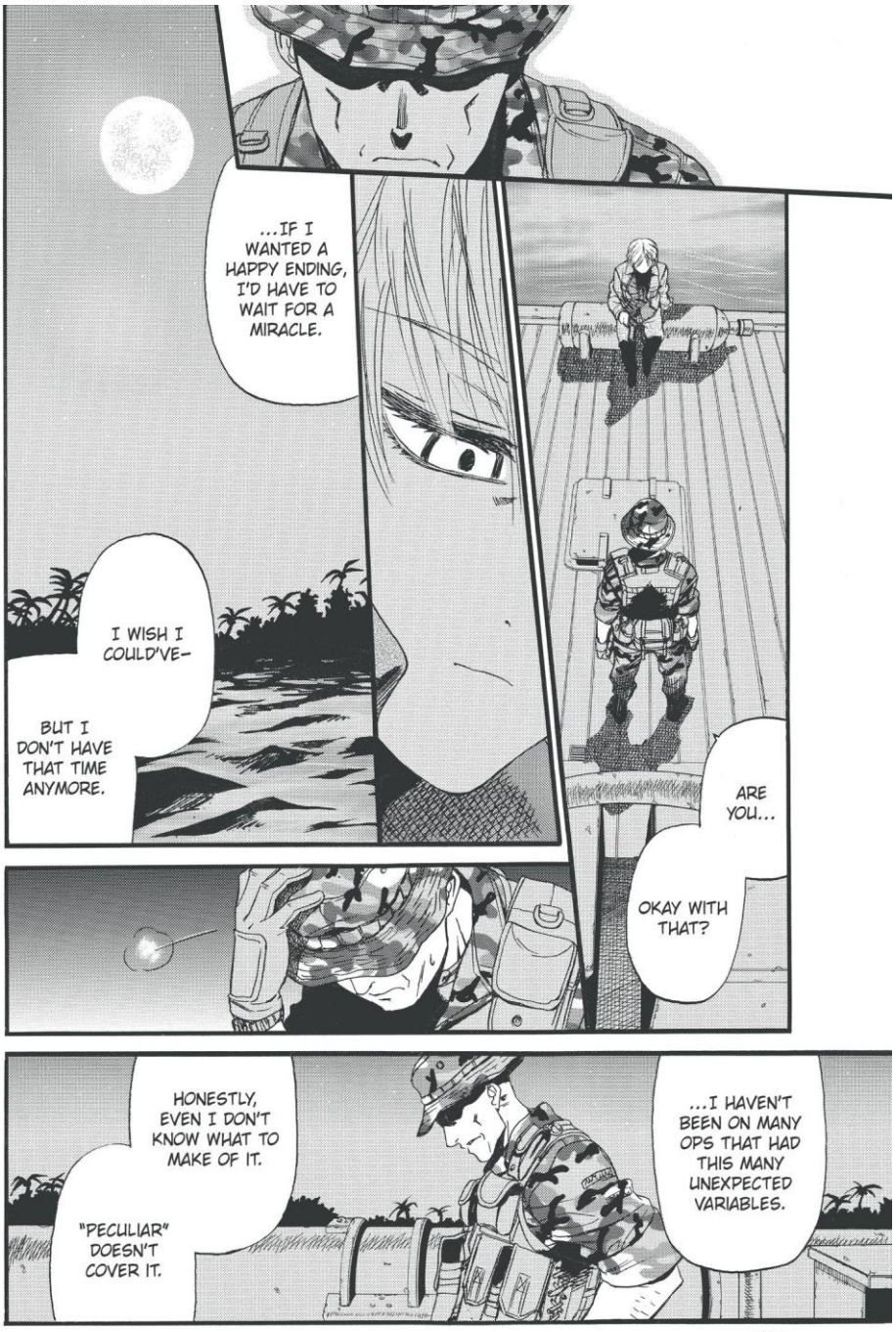

PAST ATONEMENTS AND PAST SALVATION...
THEY WERE ALL BASED ON VIOLENCE, MAJOR.
ROANAPUR AND ITS OUTLAWS...
YOU SAW THEM.
BECAUSE ...
FOR YOU THE USE OF VIOLENCE IS THE ONLY WAY TO RESOLVE ANYTHING.

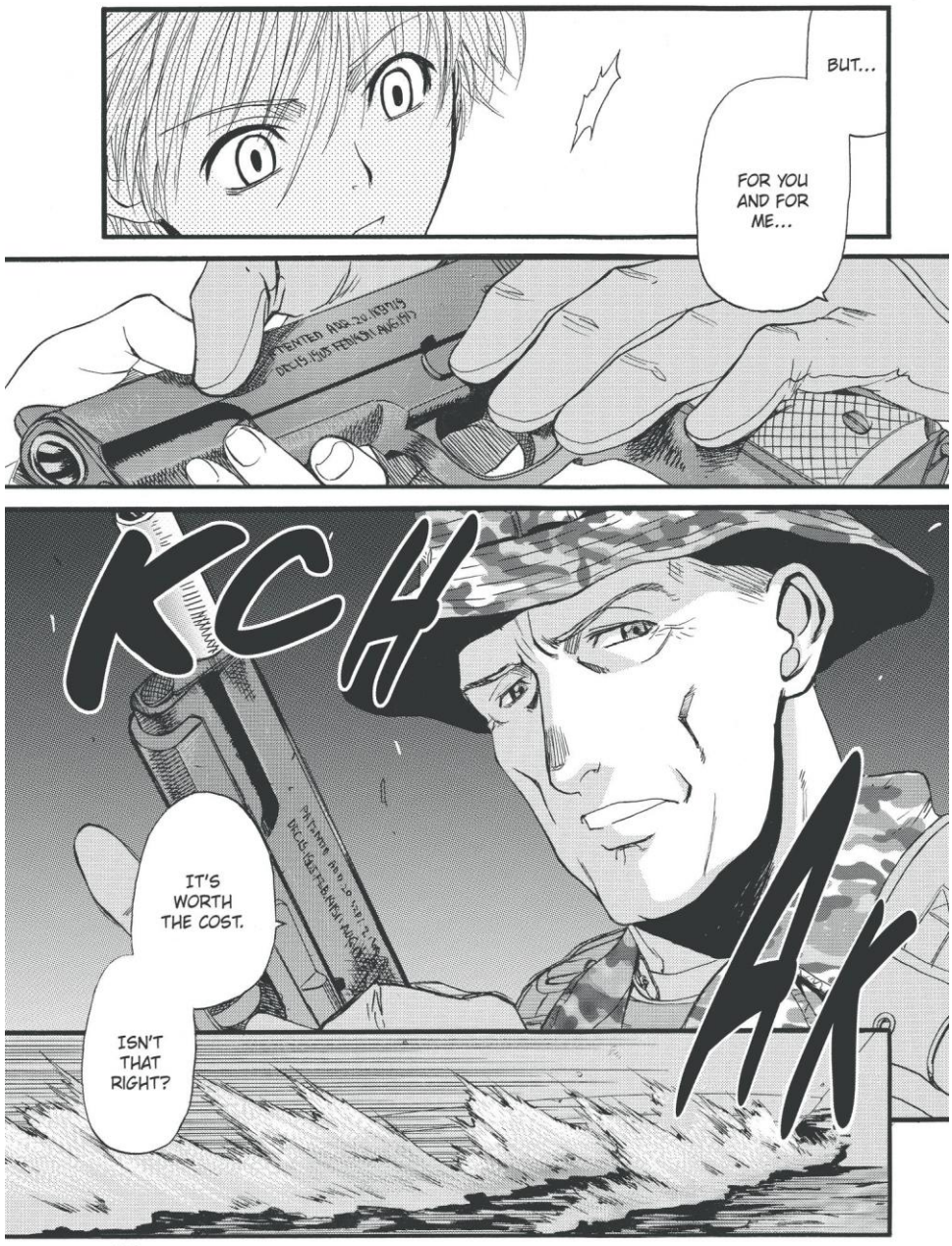
THEY'RE THE SAME.
THEY ARE ALL DANCING A DANCE OF DEATH.
A DANCE OF DEATH THEY DO WITH WRY SMILES ON THEIR FACES...
YOU TOO HAVE BEEN DANCING THE SAME DANCE.
SO, MAJOR.
I RETURN THIS TO YOU.
USING IT WOULD ONLY MEAN...
I'M CAUGHT IN THE SAME DANCE OF DEATH WHICH TOOK EVERYTHING AWAY FROM ME. IF THAT'S THE CASE...
I *REFUSE* TO JOIN IN.

SHAA
SHAA
MAJOR, YOU PREACHED TO ME THAT I HAD THE RIGHT TO REVENGE.
THEN...
I CHOOSE INSTEAD NOT TO EXERCISE THAT RIGHT.
I WILL NOT DANCE OR BE FORCED TO DANCE BY ANYONE.
THAT IS...
MY RESISTANCE ...
TO THE DANCE OF DEATH.
I WON'T TOLERATE *YOUR* DEATH OR YOU BEING FORGOTTEN.
...
...AND...
IF POSSIBLE, I WANT YOU TO SUFFER. I KNOW...
...AN HONORABLE MAN LIKE YOU CAN SUFFER.
LIKE ROBERTA DID.
LIKE ROBERTA, WHOSE SOUL WAS CRUSHED.

I CAME HERE TO TEAR HER AWAY FROM THE DANCE OF DEATH.
BUT...
YES.
SHE'S A KILLING MACHINE...
...WHOSE ONLY FUEL IS THE THOUGHT OF KILLING YOU AND YOUR MEN.
...
SHE'S ...
... STILL ...?

IN ORDER FOR ME TO DO THAT, I NEED HELP.
HELP FROM...
THE SAME PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THAT DANCE.


...IF I WANTED A HAPPY ENDING, I'D HAVE TO WAIT FOR A MIRACLE.
I WISH I COULD'VE–
BUT I DON'T HAVE THAT TIME ANYMORE.
ARE YOU...
OKAY WITH THAT?
HONESTLY, EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT.
"PECULIAR" DOESN'T COVER IT.
...I HAVEN'T BEEN ON MANY OPS THAT HAD THIS MANY UNEXPECTED VARIABLES.


BUT...
FOR YOU AND FOR ME...
KCH
AK
IT'S WORTH THE COST.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

TP
ATTENTION!!
KSH
UNK!
THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED.
WE'VE REACHED A CRITICAL JUNCTURE.
SO, I'D LIKE YOUR OPINION.

KCHNK
WHERE'S GARCIA?
HE'S NOT ON THE DECK. HE DIDN'T COME BACK DOWN HERE?
...STOP SNIFFING AROUND.
MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M BEING WATCHED OR SOMETHING.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT, BUT...
EVERYBODY ON THIS BOAT IS INVOLVED IN THIS.
...
HE JUST CAME DOWN FROM THE DECK WITH THE FOX.
IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THEY COULD BE BOTHERED. BESIDES...
THEY WALKED INTO THE ROOM WITH THE SOLDIERS WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING.

RUSTLE
OKAY.
...I SEE
...
IF THINGS GO WELL...
...
THAT'S HOW THEY WANNA PLAY IT.
KING PUFF!
...FABIOLA.
LISTEN TO ME.
GARCIA'S TRYING TO DRAG THEM INTO IT.
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.
HE'LL NEED MORE TRAPS...
TO GET THAT CONFUSED GIRL...TO REGAIN HER SANITY.

MAJOR...
WE UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION, BUT...
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE OPERATION CHINA PIT.
THE CHANCES OF HER CEASING HER PURSUIT ARE EXTREMELY SLIM.
IF THAT'S SO, HER PRESENCE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN CARRYING OUT THE OPERATION.
SHE CAME AFTER US ON HER OWN AND SURVIVED THAT FIREFIGHT WITHOUT ANY BACKUP.
SHE'S TOO UNPREDICTABLE. WE SHOULD RETHINK OUR PLANS OR NEUTRALIZE HER...
THAT'S ENOUGH!
CHF
...SHANE.

WE HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE.
AND THAT'S WHAT...
IT'S GOTTEN UGLY FOR HIM...
BUT...
...WE'LL DO AGAIN.
THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
LET'S DO IT.
SHANE.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS?
THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL!
IF YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA THAN BLIND OPTIMISM I'D LOVE TO HEAR IT.
OF COURSE I AM.

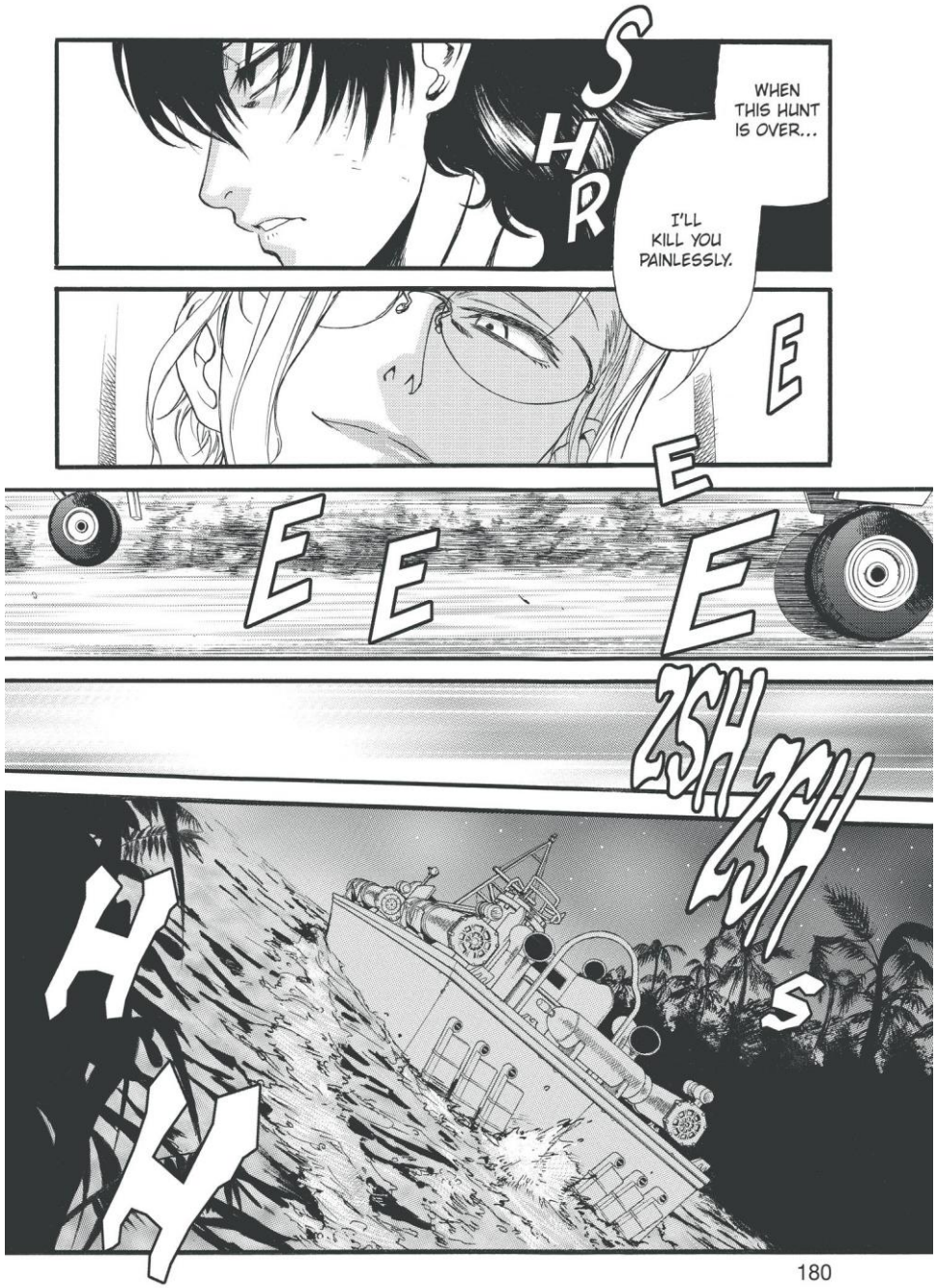
THIS ISN'T A MAGIC TRICK!
ONE WRONG MOVE AND SOMEBODY DIES! YET YOU...
THEN LET ME ASK YOU THIS, YOUNG LADY.
CAN WE GET THROUGH THIS WITHOUT RISKING ANYTHING AT ALL?
LET'S GET BACK TO THE SUBJECT.
YOU TWO KNOW HER WAY BETTER THAN WE DO.
GR !! !!
IT HAS TO BE YOU GUYS ON STAGE DIRECTING THINGS.

CLE NCH
YOU...
...KNEW IT WOULD HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS...
IT'S STANDARD PROCEDURE TO ELIMINATE EVERY RISK YOU CAN EXCEPT CHANCE ITSELF.
YOU FILL IN THE GAPS...
AND WHEN PURE CHANCE IS ALL THAT'S LEFT...
IT BECOMES THE GREATEST GAMBLE.
SHREEE
...THANK YOU FOR FLYING WITH...
BANGKOK AIRWAYS.
VOOO
THIS FLIGHT IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT WATTAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT 1430 WITH A LAYOVER AT DONG MUAN...

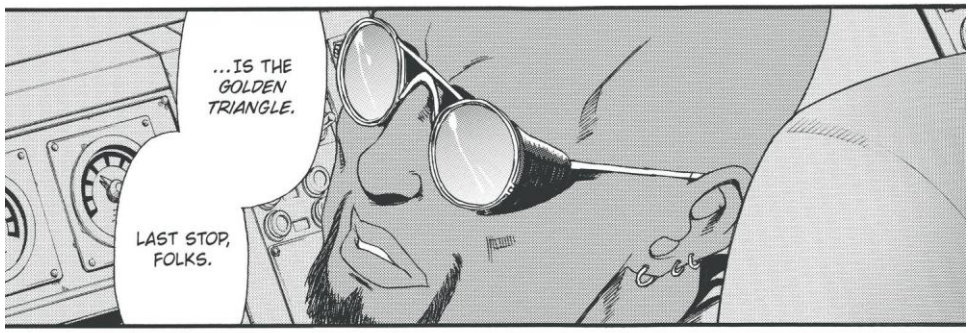
WHMP
MY GOD ...
YOU SMELL AWFUL.
I KNOW YOU CAN'T WAIT TO MEET THE FOXES...
BUT DIDN'T YOU HAVE TIME TO AT LEAST TAKE A SHOWER?

FLP
IT WOULD'VE BEEN A PROBLEM IF YOU'D GOTTEN OUT OF HAND.
THEY'LL REACH THEIR DESTINATION WITHIN 36 HOURS, SO BE CAREFUL.
I'VE ARRANGED A CAR AT THE BUFFER ZONE, SO USE IT TO GET RIGHT UP TO THE CORDON. THE COORDINATES ARE...
GRIP
K-KLIK
YOU GOT PAST THE GATE ALL RIGHT. GOOD.
ALTHOUGH I DID WARN THEM BEFORE-HAND...
HA
H
WF
S
KRK
KRK
KRK
KRK
...WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
YOU WITH THE AMERICANS? IF SO...

KNOCK IT OFF.
NOW YOU JUST SIT THERE...
SHUT THE FUCK UP AND LISTEN, BITCH.
GRIK
GRIK
YOU'RE AFTER THOSE FOXES, RIGHT?
YOU SHOW YOUR TEETH TO THE WRONG SIDE AND YOU'LL LOSE 'EM.
I KNOW YOU'RE A FUCKING WHACK JOB.
BUT IF YOU'RE CRAZIER THAN I THINK, YOU'RE NOT WORTH MY CHARITY.
WH
...
THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF THINGS, GRINGO.
P!
WELL, THAT'S COMMEND-ABLE OF YOU.
DIDN'T THINK I'D HEAR YOU SAY THAT.
BUT I DON'T CARE AS LONG AS YOU ENJOY THE HUNT.
PONG
YEAH.
I WILL.
AND THAT'S WHY...


WHEN THIS HUNT IS OVER...
I'LL KILL YOU PAINLESSLY.
SHR
E
EEEE
ZSHZSH
HH
S

# Chapter 74:
# El Baile de la Muerte - Pt. XXXI



DISEMBARK!
CHECK YOUR GEAR!
FILL YOUR CANTEENS AND DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE!
KSHNK
KSHNK
KSHNK
KSHNK
KSHNK!
CHECK YOUR FREQS. HOW'S YOUR WATCH?
ALL GOOD. NO PROBLEMS, SIR.
ECHO TEAM, MOUNT UP!

YEAH, I KNOW.
I JUST EXCHANGED FREQS WITH YOUR SKIPPER.
WE'LL BE ABOUT THREE MILES DOWNRIVER. WHEN YOU'RE READY...
WE'LL WAIT HERE TILL THE HUNT'S OVER, MAJOR.
...
THEN I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO SAY.
GOOD HUNTIN'.
Z
S
H
H
I WANT YOU TO KNOW SOMETHING.
...YOUR...
?
THAT'S WHAT HE TOLD ME.
WHY?
YOUR BOSS.
YOU SURE HE WAS IN 'NAM?
...NO.

I WAS THERE IN '71.
HE SAID HE WAS WITH BWN TF116 AND THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION CRIMSON TIDE, BUT...
TF116 WASN'T ON THAT OP.
HE DIDN'T KNOW SIMPLE G.I. SLANG.
PLUS...
I'LL PUT IT TO YOU STRAIGHT, HIS BACKGROUND IS ALL A LIE.
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS AN UNNECESSARY LIE.
THERE'S ALWAYS SOME INTENT BEHIND DECEPTION.
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG. LOOK OUT FOR YOURSELF.

YEAH, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE. ...?
LANDING PREP COMPLETE.
WE GOT EVERYONE!
HOP IN, MAJOR!
WE'RE GOING TOO...
MAJOR.

SHE WILL COME, MAJOR.
BESIDES ...
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PIN HER DOWN.
NO.
IT'S UNCERTAIN WHETHER YOUR "PACKAGE" IS EVEN GOING TO SHOW.
BESIDES, THIS AREA WILL TURN INTO A KILL ZONE ONCE THE OP GETS UNDERWAY.
WE CAN'T TAKE YOU IN UNTIL WE'RE SURE IT'S SAFE.
BUT...
THE ONLY PERSON THAT CAN STOP HER...
...IS ME.

I'M ASSIGNING THE TWO KIDS TO THE COMMAND ELEMENT.
CHZZ
YEAH.
...RAY, YOU COPY?
CHZZ
THEY'LL STAND BY WITH COMMAND AFTER WE REACH WAYPOINT X-RAY TWO THREE.
WE'LL ADAPT TO THE SITUATION ACCORDINGLY.
ROGER THAT.
I'M MOVING MASTER SERGEANT HORNER FROM THE ASSAULT TEAM TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR THE KIDS.
...
MAJOR.
IF I MAY ASK YOU FOR ONE MORE THING.
WHAT?
...IT'S NO USE TRYING TO STOP YOU RIGHT, BOY?
NO.
THANK YOU, MAJOR.

THAT...
U.S

TMP
I WAS MAKING A CALL.
WHERE IS EVERY-ONE?
FWMP!
HEY, ROCK.
WHERE YOU BEEN?

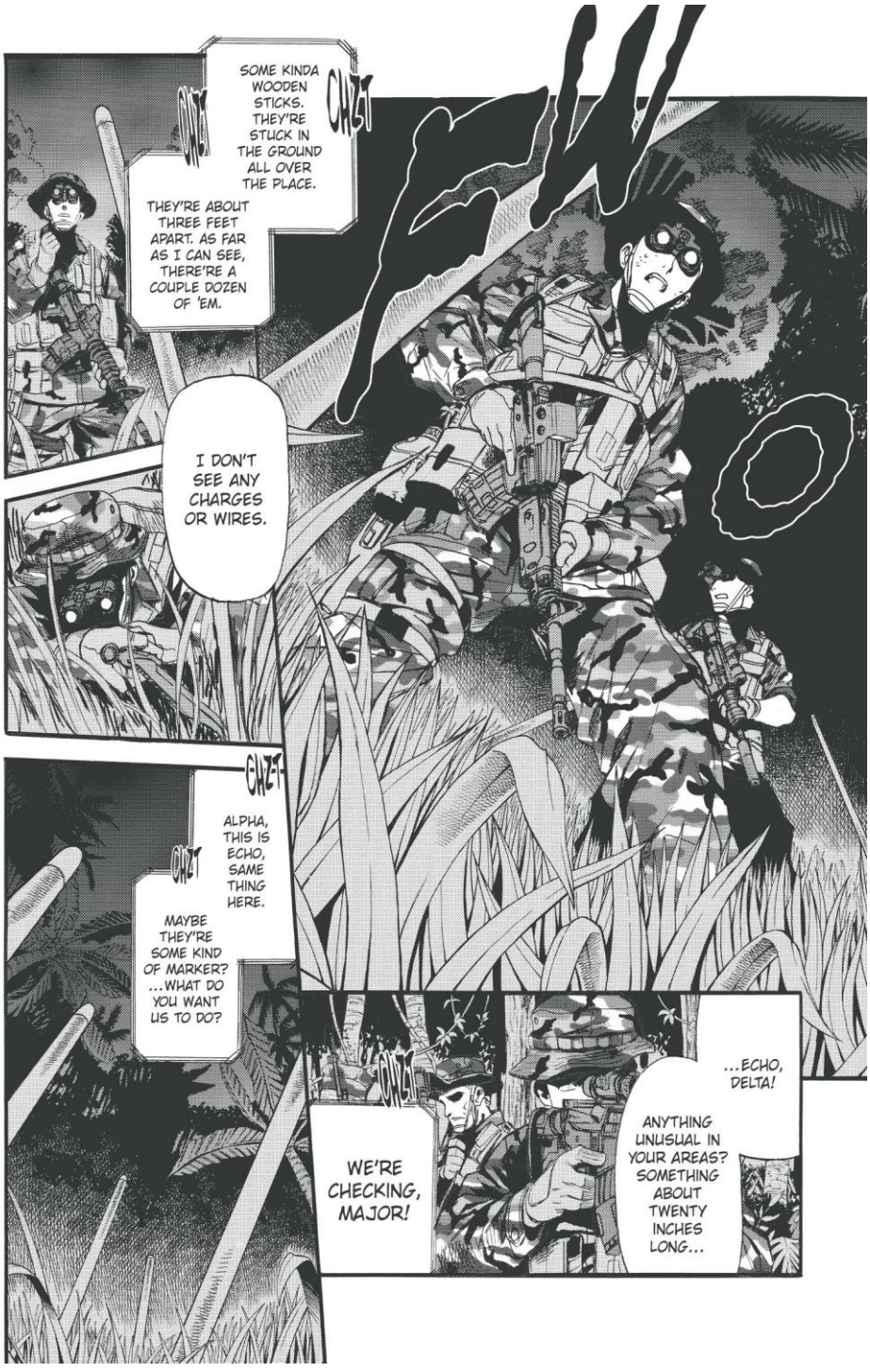
...
WHAT ABOUT THE GUN?
...WHAT'S THAT?
SNAP
SNAP
FW
THEY'RE GONE.
THEY ALL WENT FOR A MIDNIGHT PICNIC.
LET'S MAKE A BET ON HOW MANY MAKE IT BACK.
MP
SNAP
SNAP
FROM THE MAJOR?
DID GARCIA ...
...GET THE GUN?
...YEAH, I THINK SO.
WHAT ABOUT IT?

THWAP
IT'S ALL SET.
THE KEY IS IN PLACE!
WOW
GOOD.
GOOD, GOOD.
THE JACKPOT WILL COME.
TAKE THAT, MR. CHANG.
MR. CHANG SAID THIS WOULD BE A SUCKER'S BET, BUT...
IF HE'S GOT THE GUN, WE'VE GOT TWO CHERRIES LINED UP.
HE'S LOST, BENNY.
HE LOST!

CHF
CHF
CHF
CHF
CHF
CHF
CHF
CHF
ALPHA, THIS IS DELTA, WE'VE REACHED THE CORDON.
ALL CLEAR. RALLY POINT AT ZULU SIX TWO. NO CHANGE.
COPY THAT, DELTA, STAND BY.

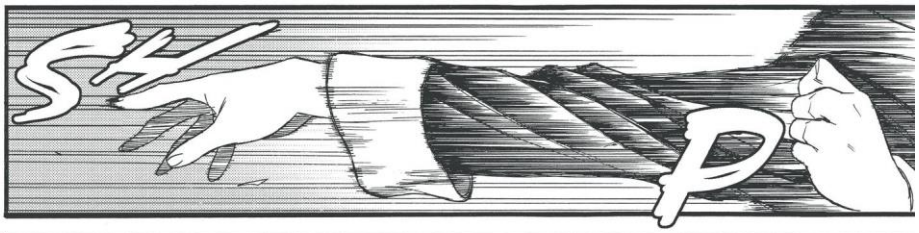
*LUP: LYING UP POINT

ECHO, DELTA, DO YOU COPY?
IF OUR SECONDARY TARGET, PACKAGE ROMEO, DECIDES TO MAKE A MOVE, IT'LL MOST LIKELY BE DURING A MELEE.
WE'LL COME IN CONTACT WITH HER AS WE BREACH OR AFTER WE'VE SECURED THE AREA... IN ANY CASE...
ALPHA WILL ACT AS A DIVERSION UPON ENGAGEMENT.
IF THAT HAPPENS, ACT ACCORDING TO WHAT WE DISCUSSED AT THE BRIEFING ON THE BOAT.
THIS IS DELTA. ROGER THAT.
THIS IS ECHO. ROGER THAT.
MAJOR!
WHAT IS IT?
GWO
BOOBY TRAP? OR SOME KINDA ALARM?
NO, SIR, IT'S A...
...!
O
LOOK AROUND!
LOOK, MAJOR!

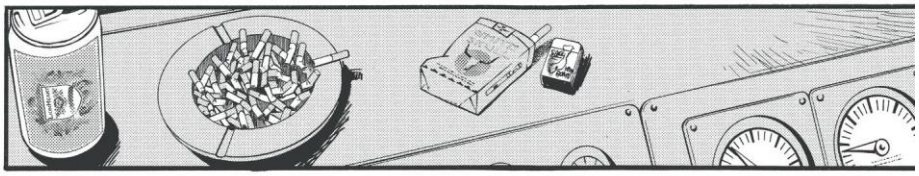

CHZT
SOME KINDA WOODEN STICKS. THEY'RE STUCK IN THE GROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE.
THEY'RE ABOUT THREE FEET APART. AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, THERE'RE A COUPLE DOZEN OF 'EM.
I DON'T SEE ANY CHARGES OR WIRES.
ALPHA, THIS IS ECHO, SAME THING HERE.
MAYBE THEY'RE SOME KIND OF MARKER? ...WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO?
...ECHO, DELTA!
ANYTHING UNUSUAL IN YOUR AREAS? SOMETHING ABOUT TWENTY INCHES LONG...
WE'RE CHECKING, MAJOR!

COULD THEY JUST BE...
RELIGIOUS OBJECTS OF THE SHAN OR WA TRIBES?
Better run through the jungle
ROGER.
... DUNNO.
WE LEARNED THE INDIGENOUS TRIBES' PRACTICES AT THE GENERAL BRIEFING.
THEY DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT THESE.
BUT...
SHANE.
CHECK THIS OUT. THEY'RE JUST STICKS WITHOUT ANY ALARMS OR ANYTHING.
...JUST CONTINUE YOUR RECON OF THE AREA. WATCH YOUR SURROUND-INGS.
Better run through the jungle
Whoa, don't look back to see
WHERE WAS IT? ...DAMMIT!
SOMETHING SIMILAR BEFORE.
BUT I THINK I'VE SEEN...

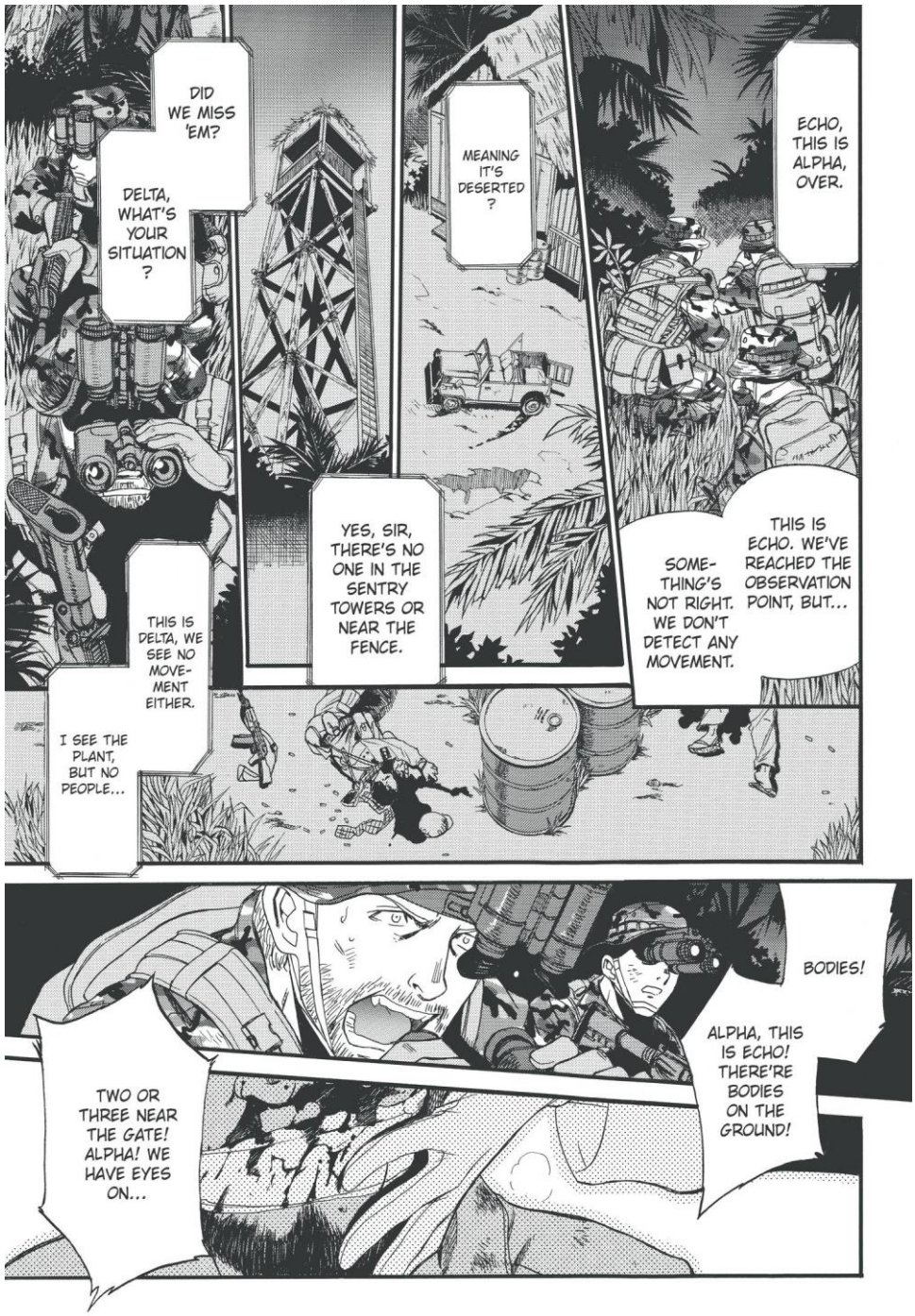
SPLASH
Two hundred million guns are loaded
Satan cries, "Take aim"
Better run through the jungle
...YOUNG MASTER.
WERE THOSE...?
...I'M NOT SURE, BUT...
IT'S HER.
SHE'S ALREADY HERE.
Better run through the jungle
Better run through the jungle

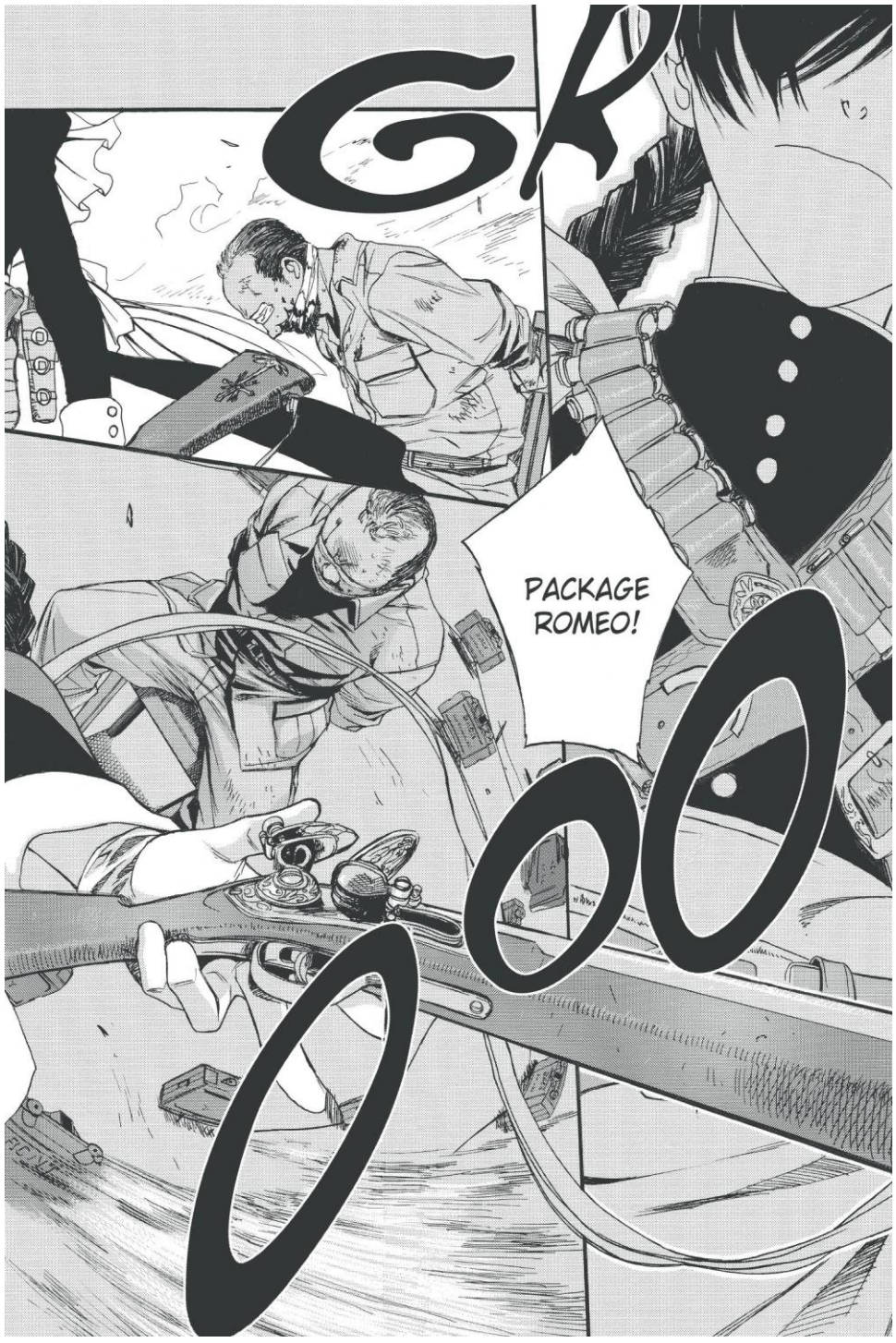



Whoa, thought it was a
nightmare, lo, it's all so true



They told me don't go walkin' slow,
the devil's on the loose


ECHO, THIS IS ALPHA, OVER.
THIS IS ECHO. WE'VE REACHED THE OBSERVATION POINT, BUT...
SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT. WE DON'T DETECT ANY MOVEMENT.
MEANING IT'S DESERTED ?
YES, SIR, THERE'S NO ONE IN THE SENTRY TOWERS OR NEAR THE FENCE.
DELTA, WHAT'S YOUR SITUATION ?
DID WE MISS 'EM?
THIS IS DELTA, WE SEE NO MOVE-MENT EITHER.
I SEE THE PLANT, BUT NO PEOPLE...
BODIES!
ALPHA, THIS IS ECHO! THERE'RE BODIES ON THE GROUND!
TWO OR THREE NEAR THE GATE! ALPHA! WE HAVE EYES ON...


GR
PACKAGE ROMEO!
OOO

ECHO! CHARLIE!!
THE DRUG PLANT HAS BEEN TAKEN OUT!
IT'S JUST US AND...
PACKAGE ROMEO IN THIS JUNGLE!!

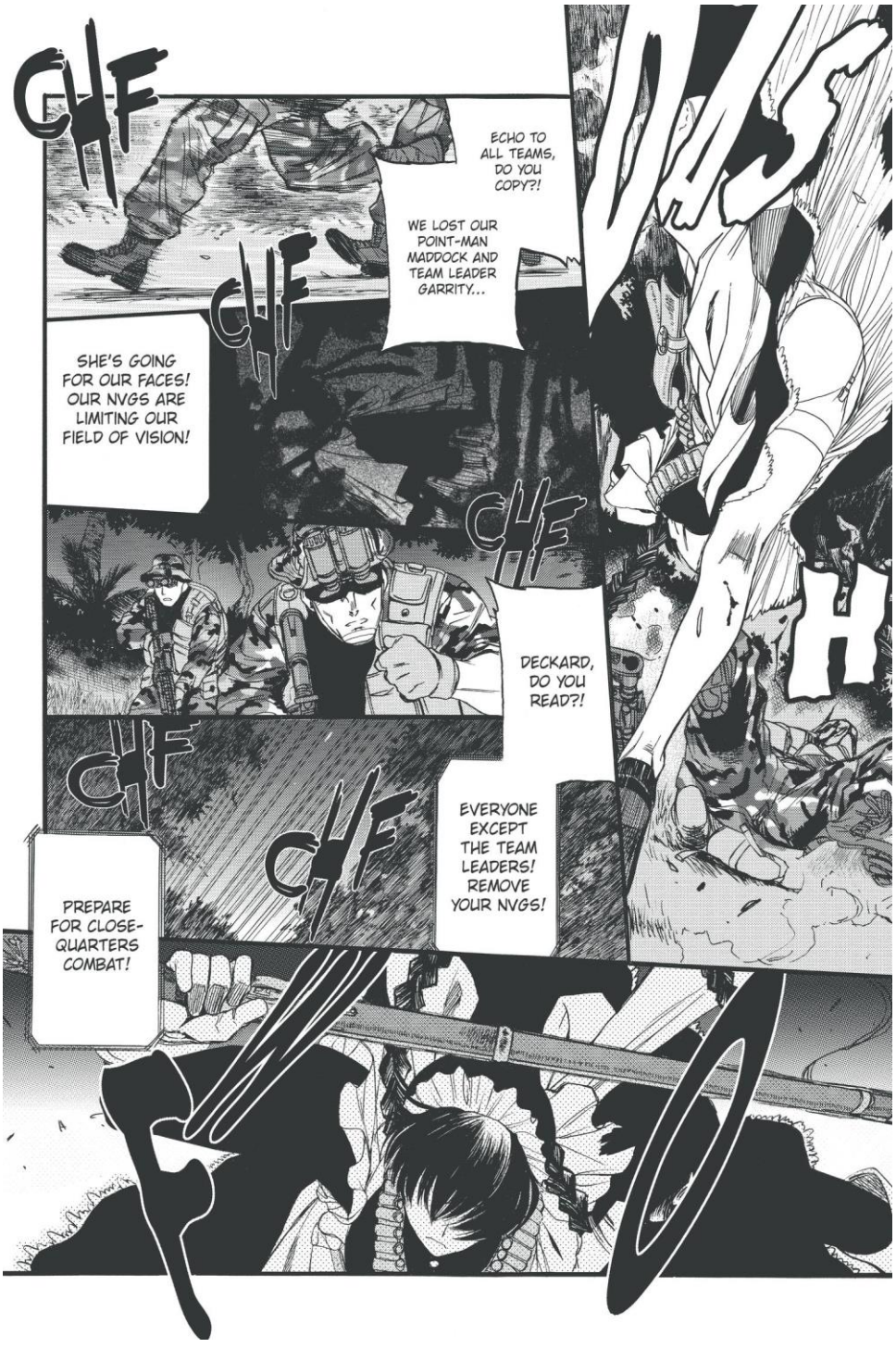
THEY'LL KNOW SOMETHING'S HAPPENED IF THEY DON'T HEAR FROM THEM ON THEIR NEXT SITREP!
THIS OP'S FINISHED IF WE CAN'T SECURE HIM!
SHANE!
SHOULD WE SECURE SHUE YAN?!
WE HAVE CONTIN-GENCIES FOR THIS TYPE OF SITUATION.
THOSE CLAYMORES AREN'T THE ONLY TRAPS.
WE MUST PACIFY HER IN ORDER TO SECURE YAN.
SHE'S SET A TIME-LIMIT ON THIS FIGHT!
PACKAGE ROMEO'S ON THE MOVE! CHARLIE TEAM! GET IN POSITION!
SH

NOT YET, KID.
SECURING HIM IS OUR PRIORITY.
ALPHA!
THE TARGET IS MOVING TO OUR ONE O'CLOCK, WE'LL INTERCEPT AND GIVE HER A HOT WELCOME!
CHF CHF
... MAJOR.
ECHO TEAM LEADER!
THIS IS ECHO, ALPHA, DO YOU COPY?!
CHF CHF CHF
JOIN ALPHA AND COVER US FROM THE FLANK!
DELTA TEAM LEADER, CAN YOU SEE HER?!
KACHAK
CAN YOU SEE HER FROM YOUR POSITION? OVER!
WE DON'T HAVE EYES ON THE PACKAGE ANYMORE! WE'RE AT COORDINATES R6! WE LOST HER TRACK AROUND 4D...

Better run through the jungle
Better run through the jungle, whoa,
don't look back to see
...ECHO!
ECHO, DO YOU COPY?!
SHIT! WE SEE HER! SHE'S...
KACHK
NO. SHIT!!
BAM
BOOM

Thought I heard a rumblin', callin' to my name
Two hundred million guns are loaded, Satan cries
IN THE NAME...
...OF SANTA MARIA...
...AN IRON HAMMER...
...TO ALL THE UNRIGHTEOUS.
"Take aim!"
Chapter 75:
El Baile de la Muerte - Pt. XXXII

AA!
AGH!!
KC
HIK
AA!
AA!!


CHF
ECHO TO ALL TEAMS, DO YOU COPY?!
WE LOST OUR POINT-MAN MADDOCK AND TEAM LEADER GARRITY...
CHF
SHE'S GOING FOR OUR FACES! OUR NVGS ARE LIMITING OUR FIELD OF VISION!
CHF
H
DECKARD, DO YOU READ?!
CHF
CHF
EVERYONE EXCEPT THE TEAM LEADERS! REMOVE YOUR NVGS!
PREPARE FOR CLOSE-QUARTERS COMBAT!

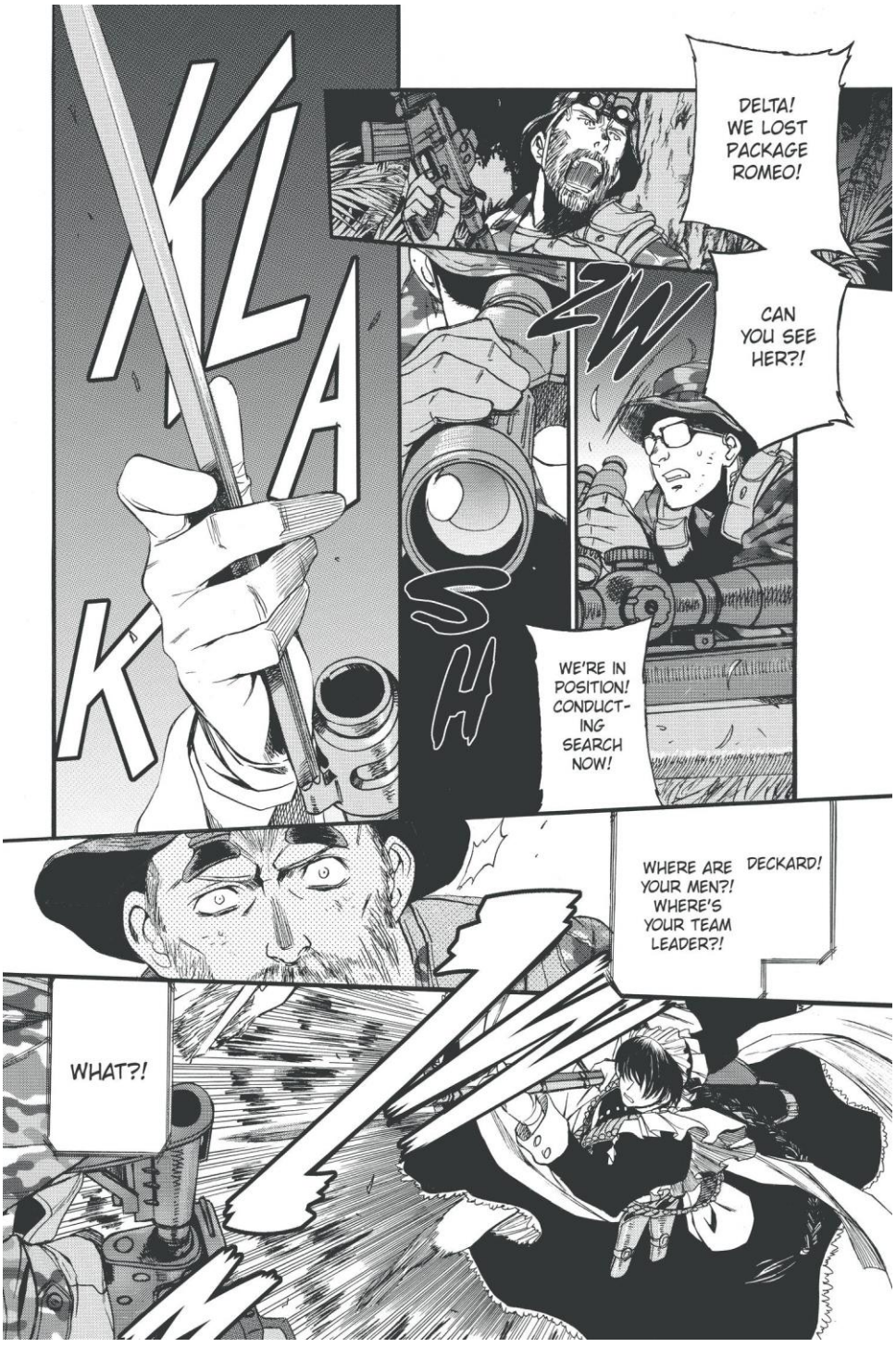
WE'RE GETTING SEPARATED FROM OUR TRAILING TEAM!
PERMISSION TO ENGAGE!
KTANG
KLACK!
DELTA MOVING UP!
ZR
R-P
KLATTA
KLATTA
MAINTAIN SUPPRESS-ING FIRE!!
KLATTA
ROGER THAT! ECHO OUT!
TAP
ZIP

BAM
ONE MORE DOWN!
IT WENT THROUGH HIS VEST! PACKAGE ROMEO...
...IS USING FLECHETTE ROUNDS!
GNOOO
WHY DIDN'T I... REALIZE SOONER...
... OF COURSE ...

THESE ARE...
RAMRODS FOR LOADING MUSKET BALLS.
SLINK
...NO WAY!
THOSE ARE ANTIQUES!
YOU CAN FIRE...
TING
KKL
ANYTHING.
ZSTW
IKHH
THEY ARE, BUT...
BECAUSE IT'S SO SIMPLE, AS LONG AS YOU HAVE A SABOT...
IR

SHE CAME...
TO HUNT US DOWN WITH A MUSKET!
AAA
BECKETT! TAKE YOUR MEN AND MOVE TO THE FLANK!
YOU'VE GOT A FEW SECONDS BEFORE SHE CAN FIRE ANOTHER ROUND!

CHF
CHF
CHF
SERGEANT MAJOR SANCHEZ AND CORPORAL BOWMAN WILL PROVIDE SNIPER COVER!


KLA
K
SWOSH
DELTA! WE LOST PACKAGE ROMEO!
CAN YOU SEE HER?!
WE'RE IN POSITION! CONDUCT-ING SEARCH NOW!
DECKARD!
WHERE ARE YOUR MEN?! WHERE'S YOUR TEAM LEADER?!
WHAT?!

ARGH!!
ARRRRGH!!
YANK
...HAH.
...THEY'RE ALL... DYING... HEH HEH...
HEH HEH... HEH HEH.
YOUR LITTLE FOXES.

HOW
YOUR TARGET IS IN DÉCIMA'S HANDS.
THIS HUNT'S NOT OVER... UNTIL I SKIN...
ALL THE FOXES IN THIS FOREST.
DÉCIMA?
WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT?
WHEN THE SUN RISES EVERYTHING COMES TO AN END.
IF YOU WANT IT... COME OUT.
TEA TIME IS ALMOST OVER.
AND AMBUSH US?
DID YOU EXPECT HER TO WIPE OUT SHUE YAN'S GUARDS...
A COLOMBIAN VIGILANTE.
...RAY.
WHERE'S THE JOKE IN THAT?!
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, BY A MAID FROM SOUTH AMERICA!
DID I EXPECT ELITE SOG TROOPS GETTING WASTED IN THE JUNGLE...
EXPECT?
DID I EXPECT THIS?!
COMMAND, DO YOU COPY?
DO I LOOK LIKE CHEVY CHASE TO YOU?
DO I, SHANE?
THIS FUCKING FARCE, SHANE?

MAJOR!
BE ADVISED, WE'VE REACHED RALLY POINT ROMEO! WE'VE LOST COMMS WITH DELTA!
MAJOR!
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN CAPTURE PACKAGE ROMEO.
PERMISSION TO ENGAGE!
SHE'S A MONSTER. WE UNDER-ESTIMATED HER.
THINK ABOUT IT, SHANE.
WE HAVE EYES ON LIEUTENANT DECKARD, CORPORAL GRANT, AND SERGEANT GISHLER'S BODIES!
THIS IS HOPELESS!
THIS IS ECHO! WE'VE REACHED RALLY POINT X-RAY...
SHOULD WE RECOVER PACKAGE ROMEO OR ENTER THE VILLAGE?! GIVE US AN ORDER!
DELTA! ANYBODY! COME IN!
SHANE!

A
SHICK
HAK
YOU WILL FINISH THIS.
YOU'RE THE SUPERHERO, AREN'T YOU?

KID, MAKE HER STOP!
MAJOR! WHAT'RE YOUR ORDERS?!
WE CAN TAKE DOWN PACKAGE ROMEO FROM OUR POSITION WITHOUT KILLING HER!
WEIGHING THE PROS AND CONS ON A SCALE WHEN THINGS GO BAD...
OR WE'LL LOSE... ALL OUR MEN!
GIVE ME PERMISSION TO FIRE!
...IS NOT SOMETHING A SUPERHERO DOES.
CHF CHF
CHF
SHANE!
THAT'S A NEGATIVE! THIS OPERATION IS A FAILURE!
ABANDON THE PACKAGE!
STOP CRYING, OLD MAN.
IT'S NOT UP TO YOU. IT'S UP TO HIM.

KTNG

TMP
TMP
SANCHEZ!
YAAAAA
MAJOR! GIMME PERMISSION TO ENGAGE!
KA
A!!
A
HK
SHANE!
FEH.
THIS IS BORING.
HURRY UP AND KILL EACH OTHER ALREADY.
ALWAYS BEST TO KEEP THINGS SIMPLE.
BANG
BANG
BANG

AAAA
JUST AS YOU VALUE THE LIVES OF YOUR MEN...
MAJOR.
I VALUE ROBERTA'S LIFE TOO.
AAAA
Better run through the jungle
Better run through the jungle
whoa, don't look back to see
THIS IS MY FIGHT.
AGAINST YOU, AGAINST ME.
AGAINST A WORLD LIKE THIS, MAJOR.

WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH ECHO, NO RESPONSE!
ALPHA! BE ADVISED WE'VE LOST PACKAGE ROMEO!
MAJOR! WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS ?!
OW
Chapter 76:
El Baile de la Muerte - Pt. XXXIII
THIS IS MAJOR SHANE CAXTON, UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP.
MISS ROBERTA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
...

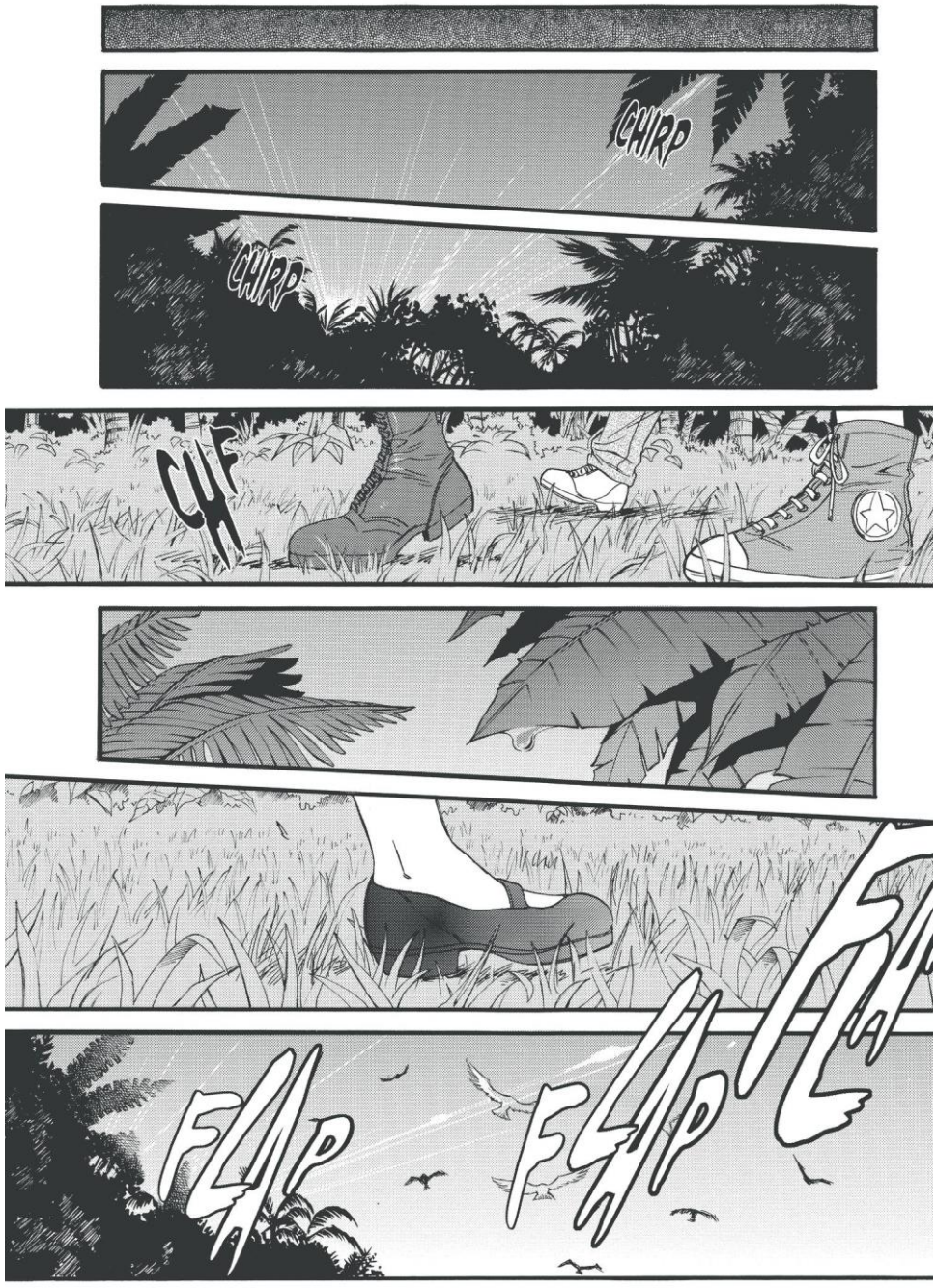
ALL RESPONSIBILITY LIES SOLELY WITH ME.
HAND SHUE YAN OVER TO MY MEN.
IF YOU DO...
I WILL SURRENDER TO YOU.
GRI
MY MEN ARE NOT AFTER YOU. CAPTURING THE GENERAL WILL COMPLETE THEIR MISSION.
FWO
... THE BEST?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
IT'S THE BEST CHOICE FOR BOTH OF US.
ERASING PEOPLE LIKE YOU FROM THIS WORLD...
...IS WHAT'S BEST FOR ME.

I WON'T LET YOU FORGET.
SO YOU'D NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME...
...I DIDN'T CHASE YOU. YOU CAME FOR ME.
YOU WILL NOT GET AWAY.
I WILL NOT LET YOU GET AWAY WITH IT.
I DESTROYED EVERYTHING AND LURED YOU INTO THE SHADOW OF DEATH JUST FOR THAT.
TWIK
...
ROBERTA?
ROBERTA.

CHA
AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE VILLAGE WHERE YOU ARE, THERE'S A CLEARING.
WAIT FOR ME THERE.
CHIK
...I WILL...
YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS, DON'T YOU?
I FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU... I'M SO GLAD.

CHK!!
...LET'S GO.
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TILL SUNRISE.
SHE'S SET A TIME LIMIT. WE HAVE TO HURRY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
DO YOU...
...HAVE A PLAN?
I DO.
...BUT IT'S A SHAKEY ONE...
I'LL NEED YOUR HELP.

KLK
YOUNG MASTER.
...YEAH.
...LIKE YOU SAID ON THE BOAT.
THIS SHOULD DO THE JOB.
MAKES ME WANT TO RUN AWAY.
THINKING OF WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO US...
I'M SCARED.
PATooo
YOU CAN DO IT.
YOUNG MASTER.
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT.
IT'S NOT GOD THAT SAVES PEOPLE IN THE END. IT'S PEOPLE.
YOU CAN DO IT.


CHIRP
CHIRP
CHF
FLAP
FLAP

ZSH
H
H

...ARE YOU REALLY ...
...THE YOUNG MASTER? I CAN'T TELL...
I CAN'T TELL IF YOU'RE EVEN REALLY THERE...
HEHE... FUNNY, NO?

I'M LOSING ALL SENSE OF TIME, TOO...
AND THE DEAD BEGAN SPEAKING TO ME.
THOSE THAT SHOULD BE ALIVE ARE DEAD.
EVER SINCE THAT DAY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON ANYMORE.
I...
...OR DEAD...
I CAN'T TELL IF I'M ALIVE...
PERSON-ALLY...
...
THE MANSION ...
THE CANAIMA WILL BE IN BLOOM...
AND THE...
WHEN THIS IS OVER, I'LL RETURN TO THE MANSION.
...YOUNG MASTER.
BUT...

I CAN ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.
MAYBE EVEN PUT RIGHT YOUR MISTAKES.
BUT...
ROBERTA.
NONE OF THAT...
...MATTERS AT ALL ANYMORE.

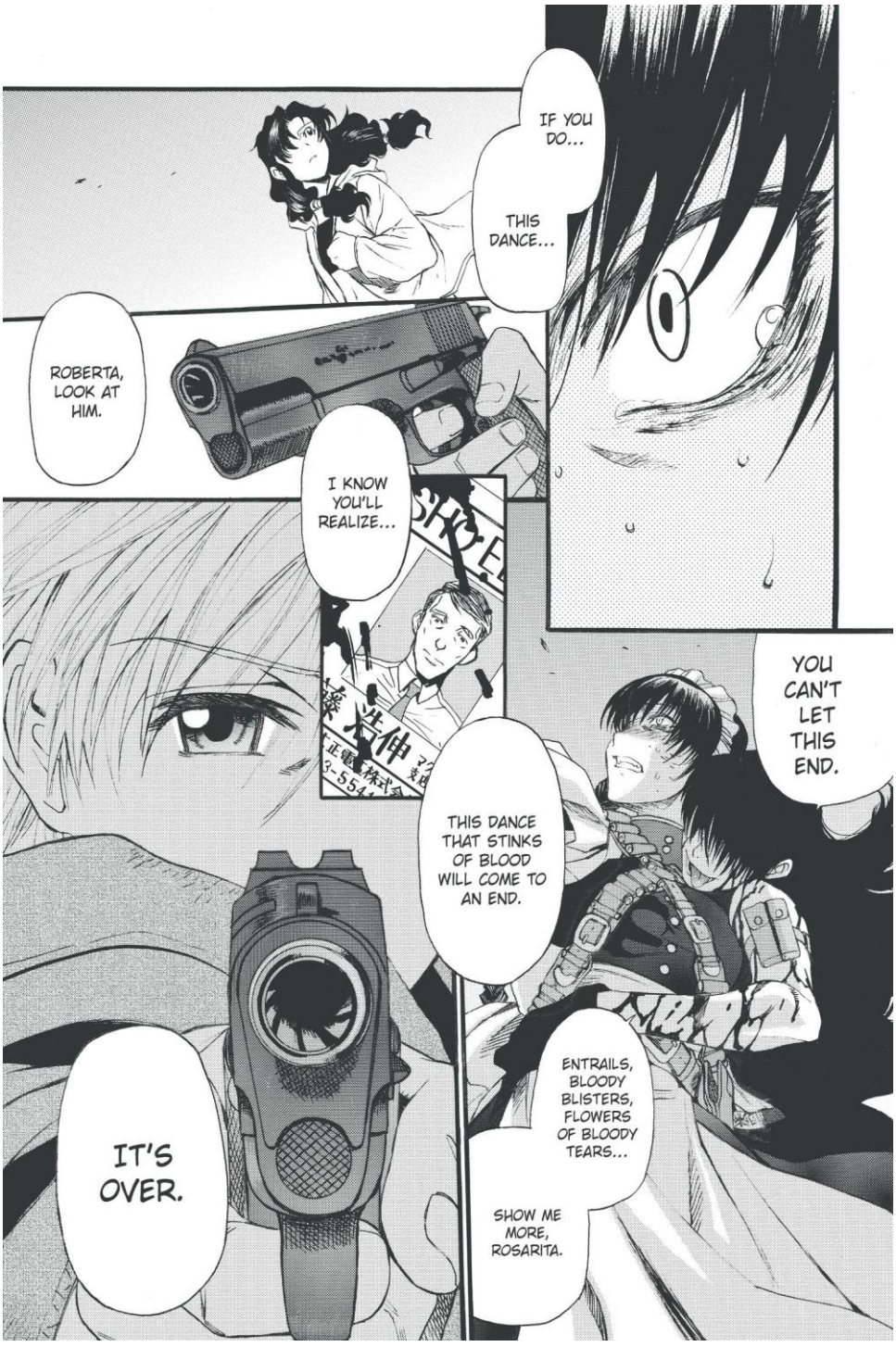
FW
AI
YOUR FATHER WAS MURDERED.
OUR LIVES WERE TAKEN FROM US!!
GR
IP
...WHY?
IT DOES MATTER.
NO.
THEY WILL PAY FOR IT.
THEY EVEN TRIED TO TAKE EVERYTHING FROM ME.
THEY MADE YOU SUFFER.
TELL ME TO KILL THEM.
JUST SAY IT AND IN AN INSTANT I CAN–
YOUNG MASTER.
PLEASE, JUST SAY THE WORD.
K
THE MAJOR...
WAS THE ONE WHO GOT YOU STARTED ...
AND THE ONE THAT CAN ALSO END THIS...
CHK

KA
...IS HIM.
AAAA!
AAAA!
AK

HOW COULD YOU ?!
AAA!
I-I...
I SHOULD HAVE DONE IT!!
RITL
RITL
RITL
RITL
RITL
I...!!
I...!!
NO!
NO!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT!
KTNG
YOU CANNOT ATONE FOR YOUR SINS.
IT DOESN'T END ANYTHING. EVERY-THING'S ALREADY OVER.
NO MATTER WHO YOU PUNISH, OR WHAT YOU ADMINISTER JUSTICE TO...
ROBERTA.
NO.

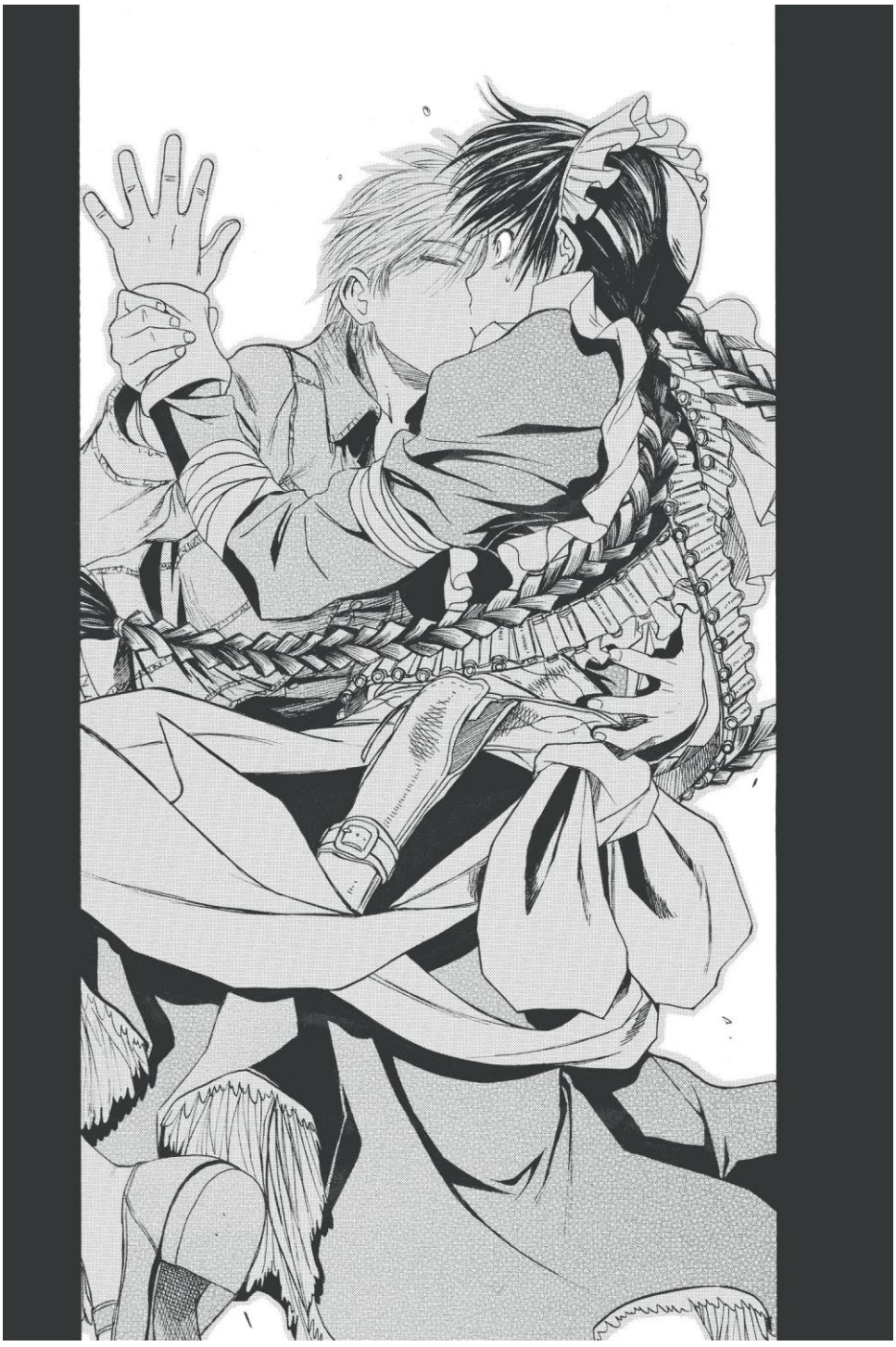
GW
OOO
YOU!
YOU'RE NOT THE YOUNG MASTER!
BECAUSE ...
...IT DOESN'T BRING RETRI-BUTION TO ANYONE!
IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS!
THE YOUNG MASTER WOULD NEVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
CHA
AY!

...WHAT I WOULD SAY TO YOU, WHAT I WOULD TRY TO TELL YOU...
ROBERTA.
I'VE BEEN THINKING...
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.
...WHEN I SAW YOU.
...BUT.
THAT WOULD ONLY BE AN EXPLANATION.
SO...
I'M STAKING EVERYTHING ON THIS.
IF YOU TRUST ME.
MY BULLET WON'T KILL YOU.


IF YOU DO...
THIS DANCE...
ROBERTA, LOOK AT HIM.
I KNOW YOU'LL REALIZE...
YOU CAN'T LET THIS END.
THIS DANCE THAT STINKS OF BLOOD WILL COME TO AN END.
ENTRAILS, BLOODY BLISTERS, FLOWERS OF BLOODY TEARS...
SHOW ME MORE, ROSARITA.
IT'S OVER.

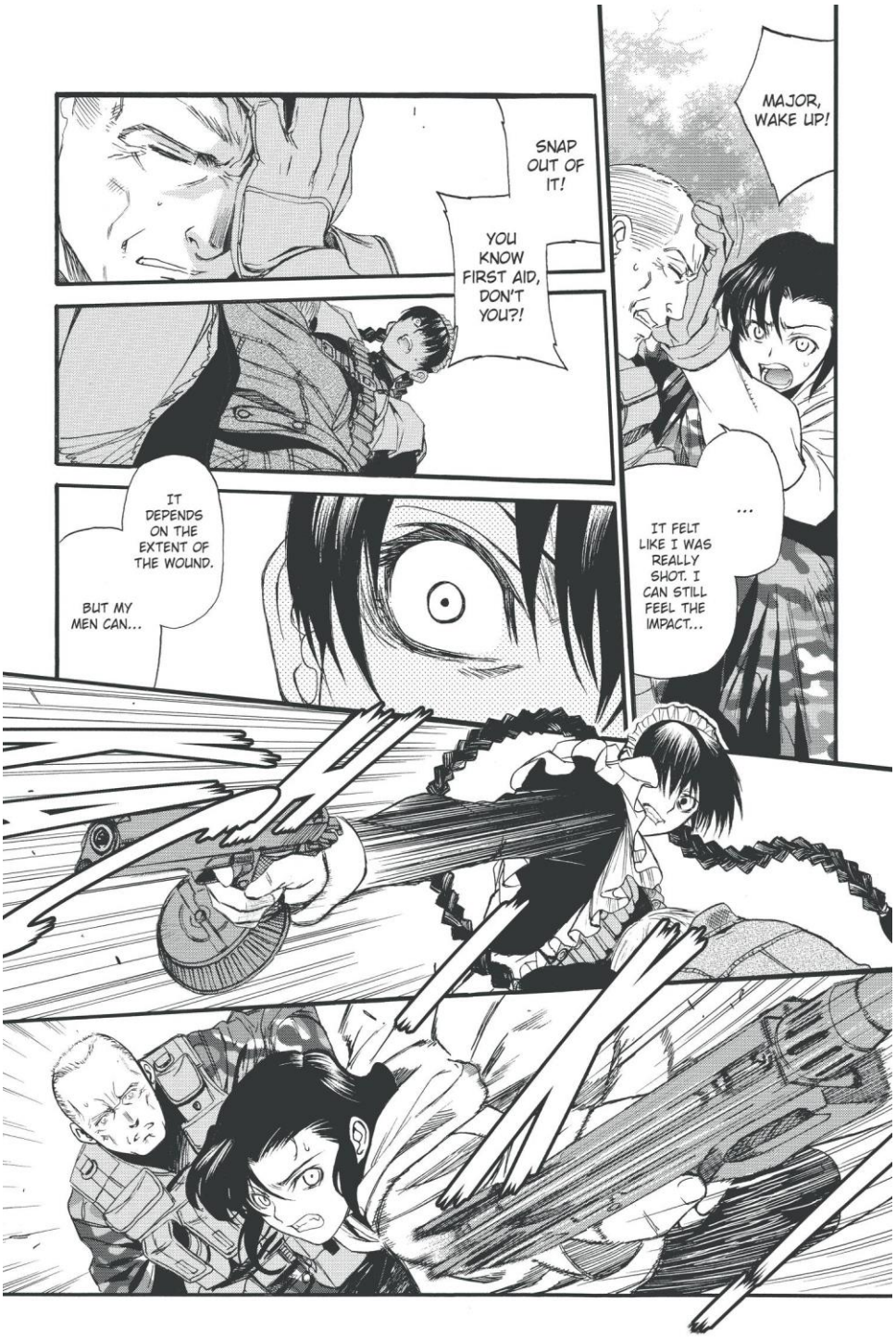
KA
ZHF

SEE?
YOU'RE ALIVE.



WHAP
WHAP
MM!
MMM!
HM, MM!
HMM!
SHF SHF!
Y...
YOUNG MASTER?

I'M SORRY, ROBERTA.
IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO REALIZE...
...SOMETHING SO SIMPLE.
BUT...
NOW...
YOUNG MASTER ?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
YOUNG MASTER!
DA
SU
YOUNG MASTER ?!
WH
UMP


MAJOR, WAKE UP!
SNAP OUT OF IT!
YOU KNOW FIRST AID, DON'T YOU?!
...
IT FELT LIKE I WAS REALLY SHOT. I CAN STILL FEEL THE IMPACT...
IT DEPENDS ON THE EXTENT OF THE WOUND.
BUT MY MEN CAN...

WHY IS THAT MAN...
...STILL ALIVE?!
FOR THE SAME REASON YOU ARE, HEAD MATRON!
PLEASE!
PUT THE GUN DOWN!
ROBERTA.
PUT IT DOWN.

HE...
DIED WHEN I SHOT HIM.
YOU DIED AND SO DID I...
WE'RE ALL DEAD NOW.
THERE ARE NO WINNERS HERE ANYMORE.
AND NO LOSERS EITHER.
WHEN NO ONE IS LEFT, THE DANCE OF DEATH COMES TO AN END.
EVEN IF WE DANCE IN FURY FOREVER...
MY SINS AND YOUR PAIN WON'T GO AWAY.
BUT!
YOUNG MASTER!

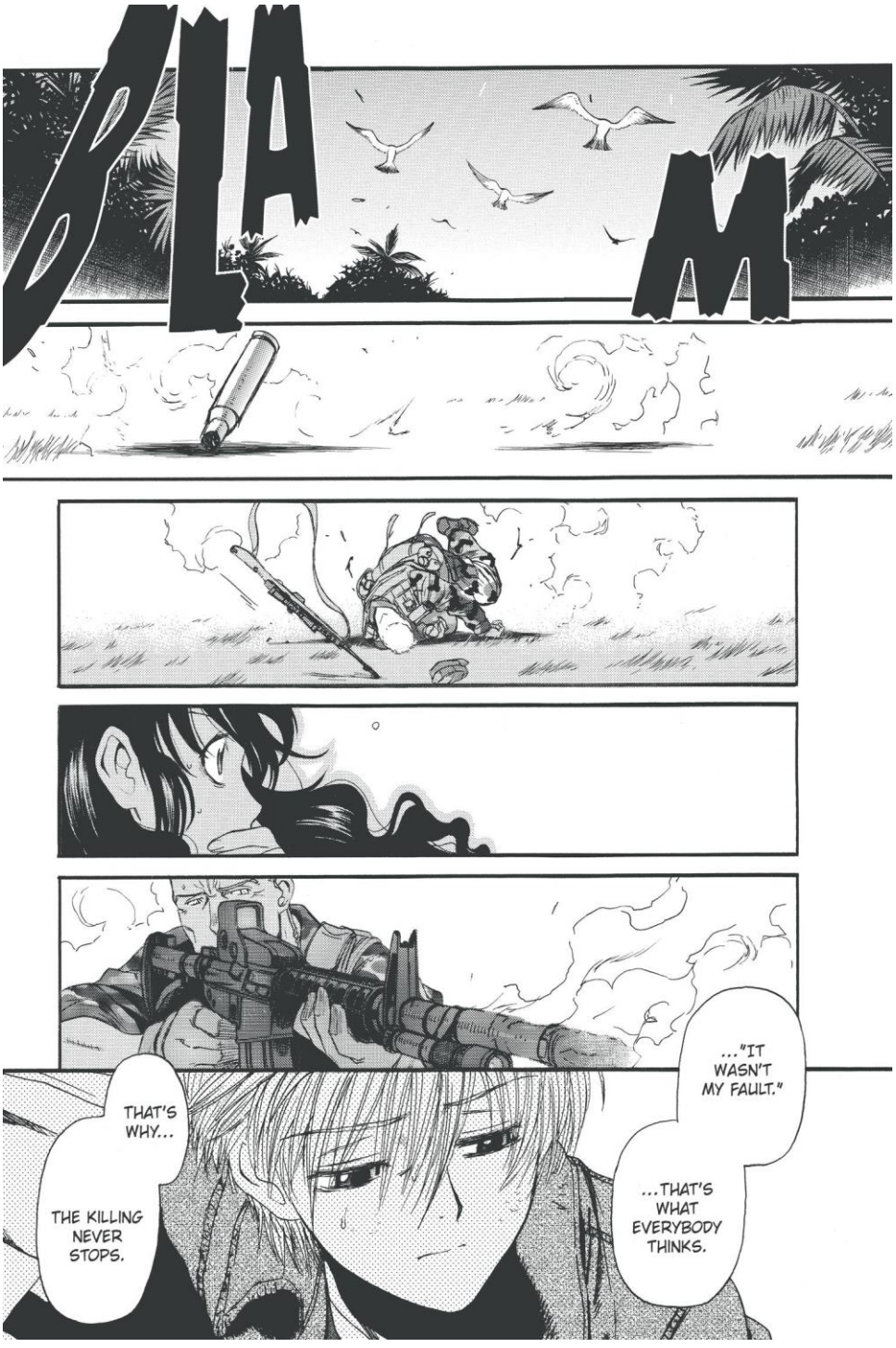
I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU THAT.
AS YOU DID FOR ME, I WILL DO SO FOR YOU.
I'LL BEAR YOUR BURDEN WITH YOU.
SO, ROBERTA.

NO.
I ONLY STOOD ON MY TOES...
...YOUNG MASTER...
YOU'VE...
HUG
...GROWN UP SO MUCH.
SO I COULD REACH YOUR HAND TO HOLD IT.

THE SLUG GRAZED HIS LIVER AND EXITED.
I STOPPED THE BLEEDING, BUT THERE'S STILL A CHANCE IT COULD GET INFECTED.
DO WE FIGHT, SIR?
THERE'S NO TIME. WE CAN'T WIN IF WE ENGAGE.
WE'LL REGROUP AT THE ORP AND MAKE OUR WAY TO THE LAGOON.
...
WE ARE ABANDONING THE OP AS OF THIS MOMENT.
CYRUS, HELP HIM UP...
ROGER THAT. I'LL LET THEM KNOW.
VRR
MAJOR!
BRAVO HAS JUST CONFIRMED ENEMY PRESENCE AT POINT 5221!
THEY MUST'VE NOTICED SOME-THING WASN'T RIGHT.
MUST BE WA STATE ARMY TROOPS.
R
RR
...WILL CARRY HIM.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
SHE AND I...

SHANE.
STEP BACK.

PUT IT DOWN.
K-K-K-K-K-K
...RAY.
IT'S ALL OVER.
F-W-O-O-O-O
BUT I COULDN'T.
...SHANE.
I...I WANTED TO BE LIKE YOU.
WHERE DO I BURY THE MEMORIES OF SANCHEZ AND C.J....
...AND ALL THOSE THAT DIED HERE?
IF SHE'S GETS OUT OF HERE ALIVE...
WHO'S...
...KID.
I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT.
...TO BLAME?
WHOSE FAULT WAS IT?


BLAM
...THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY THINKS.
...“IT WASN'T MY FAULT.”
THAT'S WHY...
THE KILLING NEVER STOPS.

HS
HH
KREAK...
TP
HEY.
YOU'RE BACK.
I KNEW YOU GUYS WOULD MAKE IT.
KRII
KRII

THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOME.
JUST AS I PREDICTED. YOUR MASTER STEERED THINGS PERFECTLY.
I KNEW YOU GUYS WOULD BE ABLE TO PULL IT OFF.
I'M REALLY HAPPY...
I HAD A HAND IN...
SAVING YOU ALL.

...
SEÑOR ROCK.
MM?

NG
WHMPKP
ASH
...OH, YEAH.
WE WERE SO LUCKY.
SHCH
SO WERE YOU.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BET YOUR LIFE?

ALL YOU WANTED WAS A THRILLING GAMBLE.
...FOR YOUR OWN AMUSE-MENT.
YOU MADE THE YOUNG MASTER RISK HIS LIFE...
EVEN IF I COULDN'T, I WOULDN'T BE THIS ANGRY.
YOU...
KL
HC
AK!
IF THAT WAS ALL, I COULD FORGIVE YOU.
...NO.
THAT WAS MY MISTAKE.
I COULDN'T TELL WHETHER YOU WERE A CROOK OR NOT TILL THE VERY END.
KOE
KOE
GAH
AND CALLED IT A KINDHEARTED ACT OF HELP.
...USED THE YOUNG MASTER AS A PAWN IN A GAME OF CAMBODIAN ROULETTE...
...A BLANK.
A PHONY MAGIC TRICK.
FAKE BRASS.
BUT NOW I KNOW.
YOU ARE THE BIGGEST PIECE OF SHIT...
KIZU
IN THIS TOWN.

...TRUE.
NOBODY CAME OUT UNHARMED, BUT...
WE DID WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO.
...BUT...
...YOU STILL WON.
ISN'T THAT...
...ALL THERE IS TO IT?
BUT...
FOR YOU TO SAY THAT MEANS...
YOU'RE PART...
OF THIS CITY.

...NO.
...I REALLY...
I REALLY WANTED TO...
CHAK!
WHAT-EVER.
THESE GUYS...
...NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN. OF COURSE.
ONE DAY EVEN GOD WILL BE FED UP...
...WITH YOUR SILLY GAMES.
...GOTTA HAVE A REASON BEFORE THEY CAN KILL SOMEONE.
FUCK 'EM, ROCK. WE'LL NEVER-

UNTIL THEN...
KEEP DANCING YOUR WALTZ WITH THE DEAD...
...IN THIS FOUL CITY.

# EPILOGUE

TOSS
YOU'RE NOT THAT OLD YET, ARE YOU?
HERE.
PAYMENT FOR THE MATTER WITH THE MAID.
THUMP
REVY TOLD ME WHERE TO FIND YOU...
SAID YOUR NEW THING IS TO COME OUT HERE TO REFLECT.
SZ
YO.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
HH

...
POFF
I DIDN'T DO IT FOR THE MONEY.
...
IN ANY CASE.
THAT ENDS IT FOR ME.
BUT WHAT YOU DO WITH IT IS UP TO YOU.
CALL IT PROOF THAT IT'S OVER.
IT'S NOT FOR NOTHING.
I FEEL LIKE I WAS FORCED TO EAT A BARREL OF FRIED CHICKEN AFTER AN ALL-NIGHTER.
THIS LAST INCIDENT WAS HEAVY.
...MAN.
ONE WORD OF WHINING IN THIS WORLD AND SOMEBODY DIES. YOU GOTTA BE CAREFUL.
BUT...
ZSH
ZSH
THAT'S UNUSUAL.
YOU'RE GRUMBLING.
...
FOR YOU TOO.
FOR ME.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU WANT TO VENT.

MR. CHANG.
AM I A CROOK?
THAT GIRL CALLED ME OUT.
SHE SAID I WAS A CROOK USING PEOPLE'S LIVES LIKE POKER CHIPS.
...WHATEVER THE MOTIVE.
THERE'S ONLY ONE OUTCOME.
...
I REALLY WANTED TO...
YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE YOU SAVED THEM?
... HMPH.
GET A CLUE, ROCK.
SH
A
A
A
MAYBE YOU WANTED THE EXPERIENCE OF A GAMBLE THAT WOULD FRY YOUR BRAIN...
OR MAYBE YOU WANTED TO SAVE THAT BOY FROM AN AWFUL SITUATION.
OR MAYBE EVEN BOTH.

YOU WON THE BET AND THE YOUNG LOVELACE FAMILY HEAD ACCOMPLISHED HIS GOAL.
BUT...
YOU THINK THEY FOUND HAPPINESS?
GIMME A BREAK. ALL THAT'S WAITING FOR THEM IS A THORNY PATH.
DOING WHAT'S RIGHT...
DOESN'T NECESSARILY LEAD TO A HAPPY ENDING.
THEY GOT A LONG LIFE AHEAD OF THEM.
MAYBE TOO LONG FOR THAT KID.

**Black Lagoon Volume 9 - The End -**

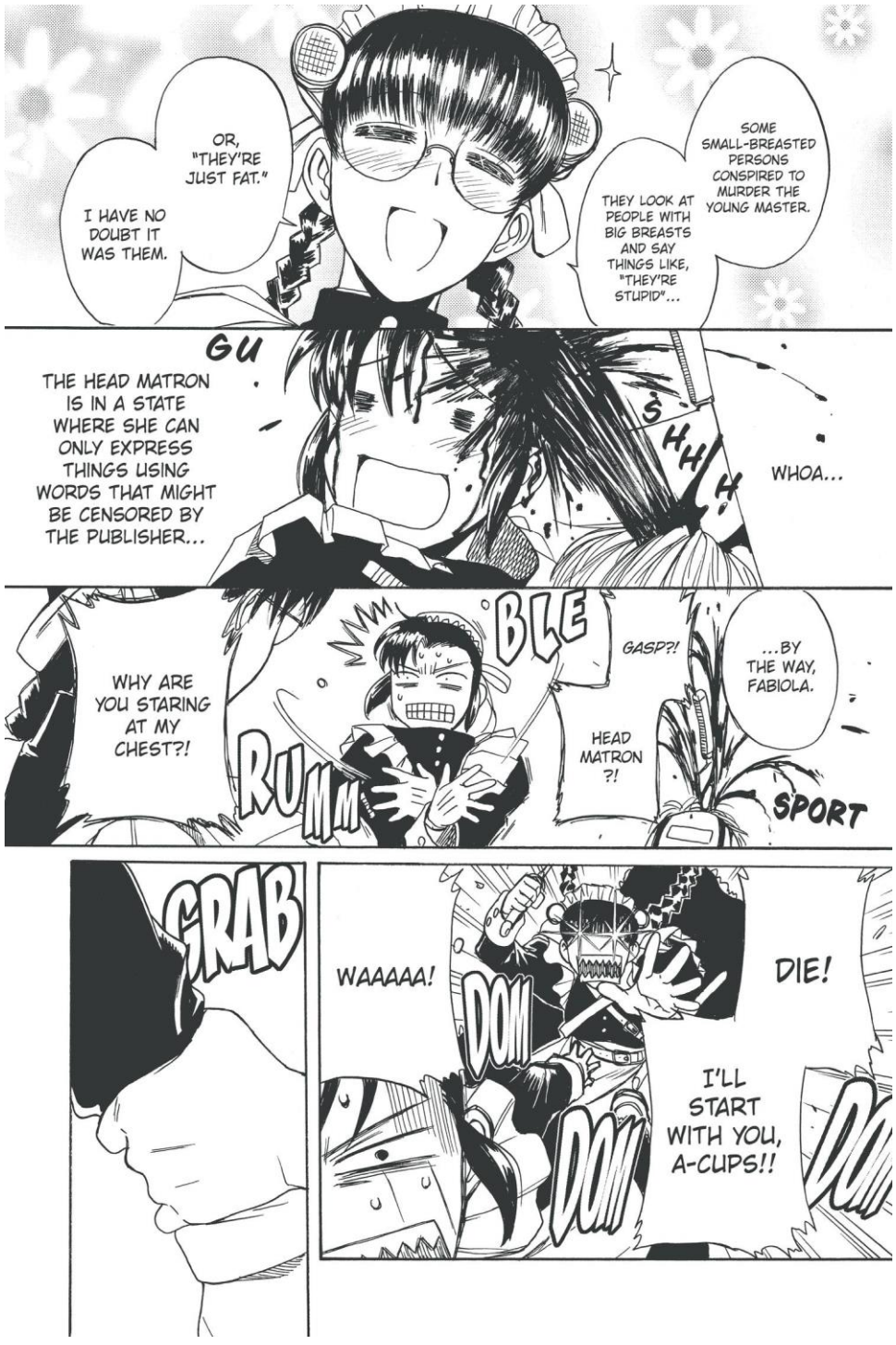
Grave
OUR MASTER WAS TURNED INTO MINCEMEAT BY A REPREHENSIBLE TRAP.
AND THEREFORE WE, THE LOVELACE MAIDS CHA HA)...
...MUST EXACT REVENGE TO REDEEM OURSELVES.
BOOM
PWOOF

THE PROPER ATTIRE FOR A NIGHT ASSAULT.
WHAT IS UP WITH THE SINISTER LOOKING OUTFIT...?!
...HEAD MATRON.
CRASH
WHAM
AIIEEE!
OKAY! OKAY!
KLANG
DON'T YOU WANT TO AVENGE THE YOUNG MASTER?!
LEAVE BEHIND THE SALARY YOU'VE RECEIVED AND GET OUTTA HERE!
HEAD MATRON, HEAD MATRON.
I CANNOT UNDERSTAND A THING YOU'RE SAYING.
IN THIS GEAR, WE CAN EASILY DO THIRTY IN ONE NIGHT.
WE'LL GO FOR THE WORLD RECORD.



By Rei Hiroe

THAT IS VERY ENTICING. BUT I'LL KNOCK YOUR FRONT TEETH OUT.
SNIFFLE SNIFFLE
I SEE THAT THE YOUNG MASTER IS SLEEPING OVER THERE.
WELL THEN.
ARE WE GOING TO JUMP HIM IN HIS SLEEP?
Got smacked
BUT HEAD MATRON.
UGH...
WHO DO WE EXACT REVENGE ON?
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.
WHAK
YOUNG...
I'M SORRY!
SPLURT
MASTER!
SUFFERING IS INEVITABLE IF THE YOUNG MASTER REMAINS.
SPLURT
HUH?!
IT HAD TO BE DONE!
SPLORT
HEAD MATRON?! WHAT'RE YOU...?!
THE PERPETRATOR IS...
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER
MM?
YES WE DO, FABIOLA.
SOMEBODY WITH SMALL BREASTS.
SPEEEW
GUSH
SPEW
NO! THIS IS JUST WRONG, HEAD MATRON!
GUSH
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THE ENEMY IS!


SOME SMALL-BREASTED PERSONS CONSPIRED TO MURDER THE YOUNG MASTER.
THEY LOOK AT PEOPLE WITH BIG BREASTS AND SAY THINGS LIKE, "THEY'RE STUPID"...
OR, "THEY'RE JUST FAT."
I HAVE NO DOUBT IT WAS THEM.
GU
THE HEAD MATRON IS IN A STATE WHERE SHE CAN ONLY EXPRESS THINGS USING WORDS THAT MIGHT BE CENSORED BY THE PUBLISHER...
SHHH
WHOA...
BLE
RUMM
WHY ARE YOU STARING AT MY CHEST?!
GASP?!
HEAD MATRON ?!
...BY THE WAY, FABIOLA.
SPORT
GRAB
WAAAAA!
DOM
DOM
DIE!
I'LL START WITH YOU, A-CUPS!!
DOM

YOUNG MASTER.
DWONG
THROB
THROB
ROBERTA.
NOTHING COMES FROM REVENGE. AND I DON'T CARE ABOUT CUP SIZES.
STAND
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
YOU JUST SUMMARIZED WHAT TOOK THREE AND HALF VOLUMES IN JUST FOUR PAGES.
THAT'S MY YOUNG MASTER!
DON'T SHAKE ME SO MUCH.
MY BRAINS WILL POUR OUT.
VWOOP VWOOP VWOOP
YOUNG MASTER, THIS STORY HASN'T ENDED YET.
I'LL TELL YOU WHO THE REAL ENEMIES ARE.
THE REAL ENEMIES ...
AA
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
AAAAA
...ARE THOSE WITH BIG TITS!!
SHE'S INFECTED!!
CALLIN' US "WASHBOARDS" AND "FLAT-CHESTED," OR THAT WE'RE BOYS! YOU'RE DEAD!
DOM
DOM

THE END!

# AFTERWORD

HIROE HERE. THE LONG ROBERTA'S REVENGE ARC HAS FINALLY BEEN CONCLUDED. I'M TIRED. ALTHOUGH I KNEW HOW I WAS GOING TO END IT, BRINGING THE ENTIRE TOWN INTO IT WAS DIFFICULT. THERE WERE PARTS I COULDN'T INCLUDE. I'D BE HAPPY IF YOU STICK AROUND TO CHECK THOSE PARTS OUT IN THE NEW ARC. SERIOUSLY.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE.

EDITOR/MR. WOO
ASSISTANTS/TODA (THANK YOU)
ITAKO, YAMAZAKI, AZUMA, KONDO

COOPERATION
ENGLISH/DANIEL KANEMITSU

RUSSIAN/JUGO TSUKUDA, JE-NYA

SPANISH/MR. RONALDO (RESIDENT OF PANAMA)

COLOR/TORATESTU YAMANAKA

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KEMUKEMU, MOCCHI, B14, KONYA GA YAMADA, SHINJUKU-KUMI ZANTO (TOURCON OHKAKU), DIRECTOR KATABUCHI AND THE PEOPLE IN THE ANIME. GEN URABUCHI (NICE GUY) FOREIGN EDITION PRODUCTION, VIZ MEDIA. WEAPONS AND MILITARY HISTORY, MR. MASAMI TOKOI. (THE PERSON WHO'S FIRED MORE REAL GUNS THAN ANYBODY IN JAPAN)

I'LL SEE YOU IN VOLUME 10.

-REI HIROE, OCTOBER 19, 2009

## REI HIROE

Volume 9 is finally out. This concludes the hasty maid's Love Love Operation! I hope you enjoy what's coming up next!

Rei Hiroe was born on December 5, 1972. After working at a game company, he debuted as a mangaka in 1993. He has been an active illustrator and dojinshi, and has created many titles released through the dojin community. He is best known for his works ***Hisuikyoukitan*** and ***SHOOK UP!*** (both currently available in new formats published by Shogakukan) and his first artwork collection, ***Barrage***.

## Roberta's Revenge

Roberta, aka Rosarita Tisneros, aka The Bloodhound of Florencia, ex-FARC terrorist and head maid of the Lovelace household, is surely one of the meanest badasses in *Black Lagoon*'s rogues' gallery. From her first appearance in volume 1, Roberta made her mark as one of the series' most iconic characters, in both the manga and the anime.

The story of Roberta's revenge against the men who killed her master Diego Lovelace is the longest and most complex of the series so far. Rei Hiroe's hard-boiled tale of vengeance masterfully increases the tension as all these groups converge on the streets of Roanapur. This volume brings it all to a close in the tradition of the best Hollywood action films.

At the same time, the criminal landscape of Roanapur has been subtly altered, and the characters have developed in ways that lay the groundwork for the future adventures of the crew of the *Black Lagoon.*

## "We deal in lead, friend."

In the male dominated criminal underworld of *Black Lagoon*, Revy, Roberta and Balalaika stand out as women with fearsome reputations, and their capacity for violence is what gives them power. Yet it is their individual backgrounds that inform their outlook on the use of violence in the pursuit of their goals.

For Revy, power comes from the barrel of a gun, and she relates to people this way (usually by shooting them). Yet Rock sees through this and seems to be the only person capable of standing up to her, and without violence as a lever over people, Revy may actually be vulnerable.

Roberta, on the other hand, was once an idealist who fought for a cause that became corrupted. By the time she realized she had sacrificed her soul it was too late. For her, violence was a way to strike back at injustice, but in the end it merely brought her to the same level as her enemies.

For Balalaika, violence is merely a tool to be employed with precision or for brutal effect. Balalaika's true power lies in her reputation as a ruthless gang boss. Ironically, Balalaika's training and discipline as a soldier gives her an edge on the competition, and her wish for death in battle with a worthy opponent may be her only weakness.

# REI HIROE'S LOSER'S HORIZON

## #0 Hello, everybody overseas!

**Hello, everybody overseas! The only purpose of this column is for *Black Lagoon* author Rei Hiroe and his editor to babble on about things without much substance. It occasionally runs in *Monthly Sunday GX*, published by Shogakukan. Mr. Hiroe is very sensitive, so he often whines to his editor. The way he whines is unbelievable, so his editor nicknamed him the "Loser Bancho." That is how this column got the name *Loser's Horizon*.**

### ▶ Japanese Edition Editor Profile ◀

**Manga editor for Shogakukan's *Monthly Sunday GX*. Editor of *Black Lagoon*. Also in charge of listening to Mr. Rei Hiroe's bellyaching. Also edits such titles as *Jormungand* and *Wilderness*. Known as the Gunfight-Manga Specialist Editor within the editorial office.**

### ▶Rei Hiroe Profile◀

**Born December 5, 1972. After working for a game company, makes his debut as a manga artist with *Hisuikyôkitan*. Notable works include *SHOOK UP!*, *Phantom BULLET* as well as illustration books such as *Barrage: Rei Hiroe Artworks* and *REIGHBORHOOD! Rei Hiroe ILLUSTRATIONS*.**

merchandise and then bought it. (laughs)

**Hiroe:** Speaking of foreigners, one of them sent me an image of a tattoo of Revy on his back. Stop asking me to approve of it. (laughs)

**GX:** I saw that image too. I wonder what that person's gonna do in the future?

**Hiroe:** I hope he keeps it for the rest of his/her life!

**GX:** Someone at VIZ Media, publisher of the North American version of *Black Lagoon*, is gonna be like, "Tattoo the copyright symbol on it!" and "Pay us our copyright fee!"

**Hiroe:** What? You mean like tattoo a © symbol on his lower back? No way. That sounds like something the boss of the black rat would say. (laughs) First of all, it's one of a kind, and it's not for sale. (laughs) In any case, it really is being read in a lot of countries, isn't it? I got an email from somebody in Poland the other day. Also from people in France, Germany, Canada, England… I actually haven't received that many from America. I get some from Malaysia and Asia in general as well.

**GX:** It's set to be released in Brazil as well.

**Hiroe:** I'd think you wouldn't even have to read *Black Lagoon* there 'cause there'd be places in downtown Brazil where they'd be doing the same kinda things… (laughs)

**GX:** (Laugh). You mean like in *City of God*?

**Hiroe:** I'd think it's a million times scarier there than it is in Roanapur… (laughs) Stop saying things like that!

**GX:** For the first time ever! The English version of *Loser's Horizon*.

**Hiroe:** So this is for our foreign readers.

**GX:** Hello! Foreigners?

**Hiroe:** Wow! You sound so stupid. (laughs) It's gonna be translated into English anyway, so let's talk in Japanese! I get emails to my homepage from foreign readers once in a while. They almost without exception ask me, "When's the next volume coming out?" or "When will the third anime season start?" The Japanese readers basically ask the same kind of questions, so will you please let them know what's going on in *GX*. (laughs)

**GX:** Those details should be released by the time this booklet comes out in Japan! Just in case, the domestic version of *Black Lagoon* volume 9 will go on sale on October 19, 2009. The third season of the anime is scheduled to be released as an OVA! We expect that to be sometime in 2010. The release dates of the foreign versions for either of those, I have no idea! It'll be out one of these days!

**Hiroe:** How dare you be so rude to our foreign readers!

**GX:** But I don't know what I don't know… Now that we're through with the promotional announcements, let's get to what we're here to talk about. There're a lot of foreigners at Comiket recently, and we're seeing a lot more foreigners buying *Black Lagoon* merchandise at our *Sunday GX* booth. There was one foreigner that smirked after reading the filthy copy written on the

threads of those elements together, and when they can be tied organically it's like, "Yay this is fun!" (laughs) The picture I get after connecting all those dots sometimes ends up being completely different from what I initially imagined.

**GX:** So you try to emphasize reality?

**Hiroe:** The setting is loosely based on reality, so it wouldn't be as interesting if it were unrealistic. I want to at least maintain a semblance of realism. Although that sense of realism is very subjective. For example, a character like Roberta who's a Terminator-like maid won't work in a novel, but she will in a comic. She has to be over-the-top because it's a comic.

**GX:** Well we're running out of space, so, any messages for the readers overseas?

**Hiroe:** Stop illegal downloading of new PC games! Actually, uh, just tell me what you think. What do you think of the newest Roberta's Revenge story arc? Is it boring? (laughs)

**GX:** What?!

**Hiroe:** No, just kidding! The Roberta's Revenge arc is exciting!... I hope… Aw forget it, I don't know! This is getting tough on me to tell you the truth. I'm all tired out. I can't keep up this level of excitement forever. When you write a comic that's as crazy as *Black Lagoon*, there comes a time when you run out of steam. That's how I am right now. So let me try a ballad once in a while. (laughs) I've been screaming for so long, isn't it time you let me try a ballad…? Can I?

**GX:** Well…do you want to try that in *Black Lagoon*?

**Hiroe:** In *Lagoon*? How?! It might work if a bunch of characters like Yukio showed up and no one like Revy. It wouldn't work with the other residents of Roanapur. Oh Yukio, why did you have to die? It wouldn't work with ••••••, who I want to introduce in the future, either. I've got this character all thought out in my head already. It's almost at the point where I'm beginning to think the character could possibly overpower even Revy…

**GX:** I agree. After hearing some of your ideas, I don't think a ballad would be right for that character.

**Hiroe:** Not at all! There was this amazing move called the "Folding Chair Punch" in this Korean movie called *Chaser*. (laughs) I liked it so much that I decided I'd have this new character do it! When all you think about is stuff like that, you end up getting exhausted. (laughs)

**GX:** So you're way more excited about that?!

**Hiroe:** (Laughs) I just enjoy thinking about things like that. (laughs) But when all you think about is

**GX:** Ooh, are you trying to pick a fight?

**Hiroe:** No. (laughs)

**GX:** Now that you mention Roanapur, do you get any complaints from people in Thailand saying, "Our country doesn't have towns like this!"?

**Hiroe:** It'd be funny if I did. If they tell me so, that's what I would imagine. (laughs) It's probably the same as me reading *X-Men* and thinking, "Who the hell is Tsurabaya Matsuo?" I actually want them to point those out for me or even suggest names for places.

**GX:** When the dialogue of *Black Lagoon* is translated all over the world, I wonder how it's interpreted? A lady from a French publisher came up to me at Shogakukan's year-end party at the end of last year and said she was a fan of Revy… Is Revy a character that people can identify with internationally?

**Hiroe:** Who knows? She has all kinds of character flaws…

**GX:** Yeah. I wonder if comics with bitch-type characters like Balalaika or Roberta or Eda as important characters are rare?

**Hiroe:** I don't know. I personally like those kinds of characters, so it comes out naturally for me… Mmm… Maybe because they have a hint of "Neo-Liberalism"? That was a weird way to put it. (laughs)

**GX:** (Laugh) Since we've brought it up, let's talk more about the characters. What was your reason for making Revy a Chinese-American?

**Hiroe:** Ethnically, I wanted Revy to be a minority. And her look isn't Caucasoid, but rather Mongoloid. I thought that would make it easier for the Japanese readers to identify with her. Easier than if it was a white woman going ballistic. If she's a Chinese-American character, she may look Chinese, but her upbringing and her roots would be American. It's interesting when there's a gap between the way she looks and her way of thinking. People like that aren't really tied down to a region, like they're rootless wanderers. She's different from normal people, so I thought she'd make for a more interesting character. And obviously, she probably faces discrimination in her life. Taking all that into account, I thought her character would stand out more.

**GX:** So from there, you start adding the details?

**Hiroe:** I go backward, imagining how they would think and how they lived. That process in itself can be fun. I sometimes first decided that this guy is from here, he's ethnically this way, he belongs to this kind of group, then look into historical facts and events. From there I try to tie all the

**Original "LOSER'S HORIZON"**
**Hetare no Chiheisen**
***Sunday GX Magazine***

stuff like that you just end up feeling worn out!
**GX:** Yeah, but I know you naturally like that kind of thing!
**Hiroe:** I do. (laughs) That's why I won't deny it and I think that's where most of my inspiration comes from. But when that's all you write about, you get burnt out!
**GX:** You wanna try a ballad… I don't wanna hear that kind of crap. You have to give it everything you've got!
**Hiroe:** That's easy for you to say… (laughs) Is that how it is? If I have to burn myself out for it to sell well, I guess it's worth it…
**GX:** It *is* doing well!
**Hiroe:** I'm talking about the future! I'm the kind of person who tends to worry about the future. I don't intend on easing off on the gas in terms of *Black Lagoon*. I'm just saying it gets difficult when that's all I'm doing.
**GX:** Then do a perverted *dojinshi* on the side.
**Hiroe:** Write about violence in *Black Lagoon* and sex in *dojinshi*…
**GX:** What's wrong with that? Sex and violence!
**Hiroe:** That's not what I mean! I want to take things in a "heartwarming" direction!!
**GX:** Whaaaaaaaat?!
**Hiroe:** Actually… No, not heartwarming. (laughs) Forget heartwarming!
**GX:** (Laughs) I couldn't believe my ears there for a second.
**Hiroe:** But something a little laid back…
**GX:** Forget it! You can't handle the laid back stuff that requires a delicate touch.
**Hiroe:** I don't need you to tell me that! Aw, let's drop it.
**GX:** We're hoping to hear what our foreign readers think about this column! Send your messages to Rei Hiroe's official website!
**Hiroe:** I bet the foreigners that read this will laugh at me and call me a loser!!

This interview originally appeared in 2009 in a special Comiket only release, *Black Lagoon: The Book of Venom*, a collection of articles and manga artist tributes to Rei Hiroe.

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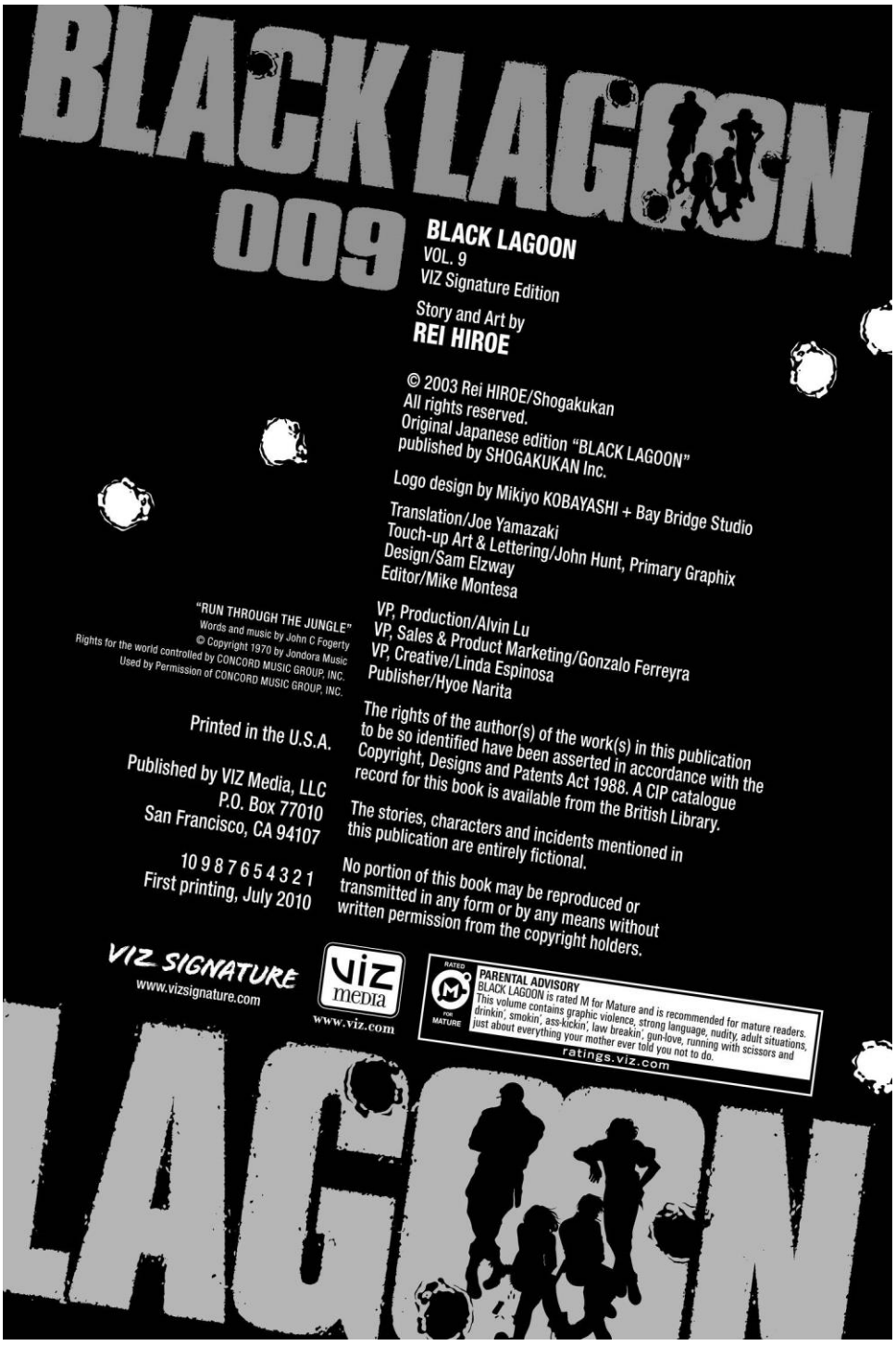
(In Japanese only)

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BLACK LAGOON is rated M for Mature and is recommended for mature readers. This volume contains graphic violence, strong language, nudity, adult situations, drinkin', smokin', ass-kickin', law breakin', gun-love, running with scissors and just about everything your mother ever told you not to do.
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